NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST

15TH ANNUAL MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2002

INFORMATION REQUESTS AND COMMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

On October 8, 1987, the Regional Forester, Northern Region, USDA Forest Service, approved the Nez Perce National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). At that time a commitment was made to monitor and evaluate how well the Plan was being implemented. Monitoring and evaluation are the management control system for the Plan, providing decision makers and the public Forest Plan implementation progress and results.

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 management activity results to provide a basis for periodic Forest Plan evaluation. There are three types of monitoring:

1. **Implementation Monitoring** (sometimes called compliance monitoring) determines if management actions are implemented according to NEPA decisions. For example, making sure a specific required mitigation measure 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.

2. **Effectiveness Monitoring** often occurs over a period of years and determines whether actions are effective in meeting management direction and objectives. For example, does a standard for retaining a certain amount of woody debris on a site effectively maintain soil productivity and reduce erosion? The question being asked in this type of monitoring is: "Did the management practice do what we wanted it to do?"

3. **Validation Monitoring,** often occurs via research projects, determines if assumptions underlying planning and analysis (including computer models) key elements are correct. The question being asked here is: "Are the assumptions being used to make resource predictions and decisions correct?"

Evaluation is analysis and interpretation of monitoring results. Evaluation assists in reviewing conditions on Nez Perce National Forest lands, 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** sections of this report (Appendix). Evaluating implementation monitoring results can lead to immediate project operation changes, whereas effectiveness or validation monitoring evaluation can lead to future planning or management changes.

Monitoring and evaluation focus on land and resource management facets most critically affecting 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;
- Item where projected effects may or may not occur as predicted; and
- Items where accomplishment of an objective or meeting of a standard determines the ability to achieve another goal or objective.

Management activities were monitored and evaluated for each Forest Plan Monitoring Requirement (pages 6 and 7, Table V-1, and Appendix O). This was done to determine how well objectives were met and how closely management standards were applied. Informal and formal field reviews were conducted on a variety of projects during fiscal year 2002. These are documented in various ways, including daily diaries, file notes, and letters. Reviews are often conducted as routine inspections of timber sales, road contracts, mining operations, or while planning or implementing other projects. Key field reviews are summarized in **Section D – Other Monitoring**.

This report summarizes results of Forest Plan monitoring and evaluation conducted from October 1, 2001, through September 30, 2002. In some instances, it is difficult to determine how well the Forest Plan objectives, outputs, and standards are being met. For some items, data is insufficient to evaluate trends. We continue to develop and assess methods for data acquisition and interpretation useful for evaluation.

This report is organized into six sections:

1. **Monitoring and Evaluation Results and Trends:** This section: A) Compares planned outputs and services with those actually accomplished; B) Discusses budget and expenditure history and future projections; and C) Summarizes monitoring findings for each Forest Plan Monitoring Element.
2. **Research Needs**
3. **Summary of Forest Plan Amendments, as of September 30, 2002.**
4. **List of Preparers**
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MONITORING AND EVALUATION RESULTS AND TRENDS

WERE OUTPUTS AND SERVICES PROVIDED AS PREDICTED?

The tables below compare FY 2002 Forest Plan project activity and output levels, assigned scheduled work targets, and actual activity and output accomplishments. Forest Plan project outputs and activities (Nez Perce Forest Plan II-9 and Table II-1) are shown in the **Forest Plan Projection** column. Targets represent levels of work assigned to the Forest by the Regional Forester. Targets have been adjusted from projected Forest Plan levels to reflect current funding levels. Accomplishments show work completed in FY 2002.

The reporting period for some monitoring items may be two or more years. However, information from all monitoring items is reported annually on this table. Annual monitoring data will be evaluated in the report at the end of the stated reporting period (from 1 to 5+ years).

TABLE 1: Forest Plan projection, FY 2002 target and FY 2002 accomplishments (MAR Report data)

Description	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	Initial Target	Amount Accomplished
Environmental Analysis, Appeals, Litigation				
Approved Salvage Sales NEPA Documents through Appeals & Litigation	Documents	N/A	N/A	1
Environmental Compliance Audits & Prevention Activities Completed	Audits/Activities	N/A	N/A	2
Landscape/Watershed Scale Assessments	Assessments	N/A	1	1
Land & Resource Management Plan Monitoring & Evaluation Reports	Reports	N/A	1	1
Vegetation Inventory for Landscape/Watershed Scale	Acres	N/A	N/A	13,624
Fisheries Resources				
Anadromous Fish Streams Restored/Enhanced Accomplished w/Appropriated Funds	Miles	N/A	N/A	1
Anadromous Fish Streams Restored/Enhanced Accomplished w/Other FS Accounts	Miles	N/A	N/A	2
Anadromous Fish Streams Restored/Enhanced w/Partnership Funds	Miles	N/A	N/A	3
Inland Fish Streams Restored/Enhanced Accomplished w/Partnership Funds	Miles	N/A	N/A	5
Firefighting				
Firefighting Production Capability	Chains/Hour	N/A	120	134
Heritage Resources				
Heritage Resource Inventories	Acres	N/A	N/A	400
Non-Energy Operations and Boundary Lines				
Bonded Non-Energy Operations Administered to Standard	Operations	N/A	N/A	26
Bonded Non-Energy Operations Processed	Operations	N/A	N/A	1
Non-Bonded Non-Energy Operations Processed	Operations	N/A	N/A	46
Boundary Line Marked/Maintained	Miles	N/A	N/A	32

Description	Unit of Measure	Forest Plan Projection	Initial Target	Amount Accomplished
Noxious Weeds and Range Management				
Noxious Weed Treatment	Acres	500	568	594
Range Non-Structural Improvements Completed	Acres	N/A	N/A	7
Recreation and Trails				
Capital Improvements Completed	Facilities	N/A	N/A	8
Recreation Days Managed to Standard	Days	N/A	11,723	11,723
Recreation Heritage Managed to Standard	Resources	N/A	53	53
Recreation Products Provided to Standard	Products	N/A	7	7
Recreation Special Uses Administered	Permits	N/A	32	32
Recreation Wilderness Areas Managed to Standard	Acres	N/A	N/A	1
Seasonal Capacity Available to Standard (Persons At One Time)	PAOT	N/A	273,601	245,776
Trails Improved to Standard	Miles	N/A	24	2
Trails Maintained to Standard Accomplished w/Appropriated Funds	Miles	N/A	725	725
Trails Maintained to Standard Accomplished w/Partnership Funds	Miles	N/A	N/A	243
Special Uses and Geology				
Geologic Permits and Reports Completed	Reports	N/A	3	3
Special Use Applications Processed	Permits	N/A	1	1
Special Uses Permits Administered to Standard	Permits	N/A	4	110
Soil and Water Resources				
Soil & Water Resource Improvements Accomplished w/Appropriated Funds	Acres	50	40	20
Soil & Water Resource Improvements Accomplished w/Appropriated Funds from Other FS Accounts	Acres	N/A	N/A	24
Soil & Water Resource Improvements Accomplished w/Knutson-Vandenburg Funds	Acres	N/A	40	20
Soil & Water Resource Improvements Accomplished w/Partnership Funds	Acres	N/A	N/A	8
Terrestrial, Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species				
Terrestrial Ecological Unit Inventory at Landscape Scale	Acres	N/A	N/A	850,000
Terrestrial Habitat Restored/Enhanced Accomplished w/Appropriated Funds	Acres	64	N/A	798
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Aquatic Lake Habitat Restored & Enhanced Accomplished w/Partnership Funds	Acres	N/A	N/A	2
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Aquatic Stream Habitat Restored & Enhanced Accomplished w/Appropriated Funds	Miles	N/A	N/A	6
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Terrestrial Habitat Restored & Enhanced Accomplished w/Appropriated Funds	Acres	64	N/A	250
Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species Terrestrial Habitat Restored & Enhanced Accomplished w/Partnership Funds	Acres	N/A	N/A	1100
Wildlife Interpretation & Education Products Provided w/Appropriated Funds	Products	N/A	3	4

ARE THE DOLLARS AND WORKFORCE COSTS OF THE PLAN IMPLEMENTED AS EXPECTED?

Table 2 shows funds allocated to and spent by the Forest for the last three fiscal years (2000-2002). Table 3 displays FY 2002 funds and projected FY 2003 funds by resource.

Various types of funding are mentioned throughout this report. 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, road users and range permittees to cover resource protection costs. Other funds are derived through partnerships with organizations and private parties on a cost share or matching fund basis. The five funding types are described in more detail below:

1. Appropriated Funds for National Forest System Lands: These are dollars appropriated by Congress to provide protection, management, and utilization of national forest lands.

2. Range Betterment Funds: A portion of grazing fee receipts finance the range betterment program on national forest lands. Fifty percent (50%) of grazing fee receipts is returned to the Forest to fund structural and nonstructural range improvement such as seeding, fence construction, weed control, water development, and fish and wildlife habitat enhancement. Regional policy states range permittees will split the cost of labor and supplies. Permittees often supply the labor needed to implement and maintain improvements.

3. 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 timber purchasers 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 work.

Timber Salvage Sale: Salvage sale funds are used for: 1) designing, engineering, and overseeing salvage sale road construction; 2) sale preparation; and 3) salvage sale administration. These funds are used to salvage and remove insect invested, dead, damaged, or down 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.

4. Cooperative Work, Knutson-Vandenberg (KV) Funds: These funds are deposited by timber purchasers and used primarily for resource activities that improve the future productivity of renewable resources on timber sales (i.e. reforestation, timber stand improvement, etc.).

Cooperative Work Fund: Funds are derived from deposits received from cooperators for protecting and improving resources as authorized by trust agreements. These deposits are used for 1) constructing, reconstructing, and maintaining roads, trails, and other improvements, 2) timber scaling services, fire protection and 3) other resource purposes. Cooperative road maintenance deposits are made by commercial forest road system users in lieu of actually performing their commensurate share of road maintenance. The Forest Service uses these deposits in conjunction with congressionally appropriated funds to provide system road maintenance.

5. 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.

To allow comparison, Tables 2 and 3 were adjusted to reflect inflation at the 2002 level. Table 2 uses 2002 funding descriptions making comparison and use of previous reports inappropriate because there are differences in funding descriptions from year to year. To the best of our ability, previous funds were converted to match 2002 funding descriptions. A retroactive correction was made to prior year funds to accommodate funding descriptions. FY2002 allocations reflect $1,867.6M Fire Suppression Offset withdrawal from across all funds. Payments to States - County Projects were added in 2002 for the Resource Advisory Council (RAC). Table 3 reflects known information as of January 24, 2003.

Table 2: **Comparison of Allocations and Expenditures (FY 2000-2002)**

FY 2002 Funding Description	Fiscal Year 2000		Fiscal Year 2001		Fiscal Year 2002	
	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure
General Administration	$740	$735	$ 0	$0	$0	$0
Rec., Heritage & Wilderness	$1,777	$1,780	$0	$0	$944	$947
Title IV National Fire Plan	0	0	33	39	32	38
Fisheries and Wildlife	$1,117	$973	$1,386	$1,236	$825	$948
Grazing Management	$389	$474	$242	$188	$825	$202
Vegetation & Watershed	$1,050	$1,030	$1,633	$1,699	$845	$867
Title IV National Fire Plan	0	0	643	372	412	378
Reforestation Trust	0	0	0	0	379	380
Minerals	$263	$322	$331	$356	$312	$258
Timber						
-Timber Management	$523	$460	$346	$317	$890	$808
-KV Reforest/Timber Stand Improv/Other	1,361	836	929	686	918	718
-Other-Trust Fund	104	141	102	86	90	39
-Timber Salvage Sales	2,190	1,669	1,852	1,516	1,793	1,612
Protection						
- Fire Protection & Fuels	$3,745	$3,628	$5,528	$5,319	$6,177	$5,441
- Law Enforcement	102	125	61	54	71	48
- Brush Disposal	229	210	287	198	301	218
Title IV National Fire Plan	0	0	634	366	0	0
Lands Manage & Acquisition	$153	$146	$305	$303	$52	$11
-Special Uses/Land Exchange & Acquisition/Landline Location	62	58	26	25	134	133
Title IV National Fire Plan	0	0	26	27	0	0
Capital Improve & Maintenance						
-Facility Capital Improve & Maintenance	$364	$308	$730	$584	$306	$262
-Road Capital Improvement& Maintenance	1,061	1,210	1,155	1,149	1,069	1,001
-Trail Capital Improvement & Maintenance	504	385	1,345	935	1,159	960
-Deferred Maintenance	0	0	257	256	258	201
Roads & Trails for States	116	31	102	103	56	38
Title IV National Fire Plan	0	0	56	98	0	0
Infrastructure Improv. & Maint.	0	0	76	76	7	7
Ecosystem Management	$826	$619	$796	$703	$673	$558
RAC	$0	$0	$0	$0	$700	$280
Totals	$16,670	$15,140	$19,842	$ 17,685	$18,607	$15,899

***Table 3*: Forest Funding Level for FY 2002 and Tentative FY 2003**

Funding Description	FY 2002	FY 2003
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	$798	$898
Title IV National Fire Plan	0	0
Fisheries and Wildlife	$982	$955
Grazing Management	$225	$156
Vegetation and Watershed	$845	$599
Title IV National Fire Plan	412	12
Reforestation Trust	379	856
Minerals	$312	$320
TIMBER		
- Timber Management	$890	$526
- Knutson-Vandenburg Reforest/Timber Sale Improvement/Other	918	999
- Other-Trust Fund	90	88
- Timber Salvage Sales	1,793	1,763
PROTECTION		
- Fire Protection & Fuels	$6,177	$4,451
- Law Enforcement	71	72
- Brush Disposal	301	295
- **Title IV National Fire Plan**	0	0
LANDS MGMT & ACQUISITION		
- Special Uses/Land Exchange & Acquisition/Landline Location	$52	$153
- **Title IV National Fire Plan**	134	145
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS & MAINTENANCE		
- Facility Capital Improvement & Maintenance	$306	$367
- Roads Capital Improvement & Maintenance	1,069	1,429
- Trail Capital Improvement & Maintenance	1,159	924
- Deferred Maintenance	258	499
ROADS AND TRAILS FOR STATES	56	14
TITLE IV NATIONAL FIRE PLAN	0	0
INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS & MAINTENANCE	7	22
Ecosystem Management	$673	$747
Payments to States – County Projects	$700	$411
Totals	$18,607	$16,701

FOREST PLAN MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

This section of the report summarizes and discusses monitoring and evaluation results. Under most resources a summary answering four questions is presented first:

- What did we accomplish?
- What outputs and/or work was planned that did not get accomplished?
- What practices need to be changed based on monitoring results?
- What is the current condition and trend of the resource when compared to the desired condition?

Summary questions are followed by each Forest Plan monitoring item listing:

- Measurement Frequency
- Reporting Period
- Variability that would initiate further evaluation
- Monitoring Results
- Evaluation of Monitoring Results

The items below were arranged by resource and follow Nez Perce Forest Plan (Table V-1) requirements. Item numbers listed below correspond to Appendix O of the Nez Perce Forest Plan.

Wildlife

1) What did we accomplish?

- We partnered with Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation on habitat protection and improvement projects.
- We initiated adaptive management addressing fire risks. Forest personnel have begun designing and implementing high-intensity fire risk reduction and ecosystem restoration treatments incorporating timber harvest/thinning and/or prescribed fire plans as tools (i.e. Salmon River Canyon fire project, Meadow Face Stewardship Project, and Clean Slate Project).
- We used biocontrol agents to suppress noxious weed infestations affecting native plants and big game ranges.
- Our efforts rejuvenated and enhanced 15,741 acres of forage production and improved big game habitats and sensitive species habitats such as flammulated owls and white-headed woodpeckers using timber harvest, thinning, and prescribed fire.
- We continued using lynx suitability habitat mapping results to help guide resource decisions. We continue implementing conservation measures in the Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy.
- We reviewed effects of land management activities on federally listed and Forest Service sensitive species and prepared over 40 biological assessments and evaluations to meet ESA and Forest Service policy requirements. We maintained good working relations with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through informal consultations.
- We continued Neotropical migrant bird habitat inventories in ponderosa pine and dry Douglas fir forests (on burned and unburned sites) in partnership with the Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game and USFS Region 1 Landbird Monitoring Program. Forest personnel coordinated and shared data across the Northern Region to help improve landscape-scale monitoring and address international biological diversity issues related to land birds.

2) What outputs and/or work was planned that did not get accomplished?

- Big game winter range improvements funded by wildlife dollars fell short of Forest Plan prescribed burning objectives by about 2,850 acres for FY2002.
- Timber harvest treatment on big game winter ranges again fell short of Forest Plan goals for FY2002.

3) What management practices need to be changed based on monitoring results?

- In times of austere budgets and limited personnel resources, monitoring resources should be focused on a reduced number of priority ecological indicator species.
- Elk, big horn sheep, and moose were originally selected as management indicators principally due to their featured status as hunted species rather than serving as ecological indicators. None of these species is even remotely considered rare or in jeopardy of population viability risk.
- Federally listed Forest Plan management indicator species (bald eagle, wolf, grizzly, and peregrine) should be de-emphasized and monitored only intermittently or dropped entirely as management indicators since: 1) they are monitored across larger landscapes by multiple agencies, 2) most have made substantial progress toward recovery and have been down-listed or are essentially recovered, and 3) local populations status and recovery information far exceeds available information on other less studied species such as fisher, goshawk, or pileated woodpecker.

4) What are the current resource conditions and trends compared to desired conditions?

- Lower elevation habitat types and "protected" old growth areas are, in places, too heavily stocked and fuel-rich to remain self-sustaining in the long term without active fuel reduction using intermediate harvests, reintroduction of fire or both. Several sensitive species (primarily), and some Neotropical migrant birds (secondarily) may be in decline partially because of the accumulation of acres that have had natural fire processes interrupted, changing key habitat conditions on these sites.
- Most federally listed terrestrial species (with the exception of lynx) are in relatively good condition with upward trends. Recovery for bald eagles and wolves is on schedule or ahead of schedule. Peregrine falcons were de-listed in 1999. Grizzly bear reintroduction and recovery is uncertain or has been temporarily shelved by Interior Department.
- Current condition and trend of several sensitive species and some emerging biodiversity-issue species (i.e. Neotropical migrant birds) are under-studied and poorly understood at the landscape scale.
- Big game winter range condition imbalances and forage distribution is being cited along with declining summer forage conditions as a key factor in slow recovery of local elk population numbers from heavy hunting pressure and effects of current predator populations. In the longer term, species such as wolverine, wolf, and potentially lynx depend on the proper amounts and distribution of early seral habitats in the forest landscape which support key species used as prey and carrion. Forest carnivores including wolverine, wolves, lynx, and other species have likely been indirectly affected by past fire exclusion and unchecked forest succession in many habitat types.

Forest Plan Item 1c: Big-Game Habitat Carrying Capacity

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: 5 years

Variability that 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: Timber harvest (i.e., clear-cut, seedtree, and shelterwood), prescribed fire, and wildfire acreages are used collectively to estimate relative forage production. Forage production for elk and deer in coniferous forests of north central Idaho is primarily related to shrubs, grasses, and forbs. Timber harvest and fire typically create openings in forest stands and increase 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. The Forest Plan projected total forage production per year would be 14,285 acres.

Summer Elk Habitat: The Forest Plan identified approximately 1,887,000 acres of elk summer range on the Nez Perce National 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 acres; 75 percent on approximately 274,033 acres; and 100 percent on approximately 942,258 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 in the Forest Plan.

Moose Winter Range (MA 21): Late seral grand fir with pacific yew canopy cover habitats along with other associated browse are important components of moose winter habitat. Timber harvest on moose winter range is limited by the Forest Plan to 5 percent of MA 21 (moose winter range) per decade.

Monitoring Results

Forage Production: Tables 4 and 5 display the projected acreages for each variable identified in the Forest Plan and their FY 2002 target and accomplishments. Total forage production (prescribed fire, wildland fire for resource benefits, wildfire and timber harvest) was 18,059 acres (3774 acres more than Forest Plan projections).

Table 4: **Big Game Forage Produced by Timber Harvest (1987-2002)**

Fiscal Year	Acres Harvested	Fiscal Year	Acres Harvested	Fiscal Year	Acres Harvested	Fiscal Year	Acres Harvested
		1990	2,521	**1995**	1,454	**2000**	292
		1991	2,931	**1996**	2,419	**2001**	514
Forest Plan	4,585	**1992**	2,616	**1997**	489	**2002**	168
1988	2,911	**1993**	2,304	**1998**	721		
1989	2,544	**1994**	2,554	**1999**	495		

Table 5: **Big Game Forage Produced by Wildfires and Wildland Fire Used for Benefits (1987-2002)**

Fiscal Year	Acres Burned	Fiscal Year	Acres Burned	Fiscal Year	Acres Burned	Fiscal Year	Acres Burned
		1990	643	**1995**	26	**2000**	33,097
		1991	2,207	**1996**	40,132	**2001**	18,160
Forest Plan	4,683	**1992**	44,966	**1997**	29	**2002**	15,741
1988	105,943	**1993**	4,700	**1998**	233		
1989	8,888	**1994**	9,118	**1999**	1,278		

Summer Elk Habitat*:* FY 2002 compliance with summer habitat objective has been excellent.

Moose Winter Range: In FY 2002, no acres of MA 21 were harvested. Due to wholesale changes in forest management and harvest type philosophies in recent years, current levels and types of harvest-related

impact are no longer considered damaging to long-term moose habitats. Fiscal year 2002 harvested acres were well below the 5 percent per decade limit and well within Forest Plan standards. The dramatic reduction in clear-cut/burn prescriptions used widely before the early and mid-1990's has virtually eliminated risks to grand fir/Pacific yew moose habitats. With the currently applied ecosystem management emphasis, and types of harvest now employed, the urgency to protect critical grand fir/yew winter habitats from clearcutting and burning has become a declining concern.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results

Available data does not indicate management changes are warranted at this time.

Forage Production: Over the past 15 years, timber harvest that has increased big game forage has averaged approximately 1,662 acres per year (36 percent of the Forest Plan projection). Though timber harvest has fallen short of planned acreages, wildfires and wildland fire use to benefit resources have compensated for the shortfall in terms of forage production.

Summer Elk Habitat: A few analysis units remain below Forest Plan summer habitat objectives for a variety of reasons. Forest-wide elk summer range conditions assessment indicates:

1. Elk habitat effectiveness objectives are being met or exceeded on 78 percent of the Forest's elk summer range; and
2. Needed adjustments to meet Forest Plan elk objectives can conflict with motorized vehicle access objectives more than originally anticipated.

The Forest completed a minor Forest Plan amendment (Amendment #23) to correct original Forest Plan analysis unit errors and resolve many incompatibilities created by original objective assignments.

Moose Winter Range: Forest Plan direction to limit timber harvest to 5 percent per decade has been followed. No harvesting occurred in MA21 acres in FY02. Current vegetation treatment strategies are more compatible with winter moose habitats sustainability.

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Forest Plan Item 1d: Non-Game Habitat

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: 5 years

Variability that 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 does not allow timber harvest in designated old growth forest until decade 10 and/or in replacement stands until decade 16. No harvest occurred in MA20 during FY 2002. Intensive regeneration treatment methods (i.e. clearcutting) in late seral and over-mature habitats have declined dramatically since the early to mid 1990's. This significant change in management has substantially reduced and minimized current harvest-related impacts and risks of habitat loss or fragmentation on old growth-associated wildlife species. Adherence to Forest Plan Old Growth standards in FY 2002 is contributing to maintaining sufficient amounts, quality, and distribution of old growth habitats necessary for the maintenance of viable populations of old growth associated species across the Forest landscape. Recognition of risks to old growth habitats from stand-replacing fires have led to proposals to partially thin from below in some ponderosa pine and dry Douglas fir old growth areas. Site-specific Forest Plan Amendments allow selective harvest or thinning in low elevation, dry

site forest types as needed to protect and restore large ponderosa pine and help prevent old growth habitats losses due to high-intensity fire risks. See Forest Plan Amendment 26.

Monitoring Results

Old Growth (MA 20): Previously used 40-acre clearcutting and burning practices in late seral stands are no longer done. To help ensure long-term old growth sustainability in dryer habitat types, thinning fuels is necessary to simulate natural fires.

The Berg Sale old growth monitoring results (Forest Plan Monitoring & Evaluation Report for 2001), illustrated the actual changes from harvest and thinning in old growth stands. Increased awareness of stand replacement fire risks in lower elevation ponderosa pine and dry Douglas fir habitat types is stimulating changes in how dry conifer habitats are managed. As an example, the South Fork Clearwater River Landscape Assessment proposed interim recommendations (page 209) to treat dry site old growth to restore these fire dependent habitats.

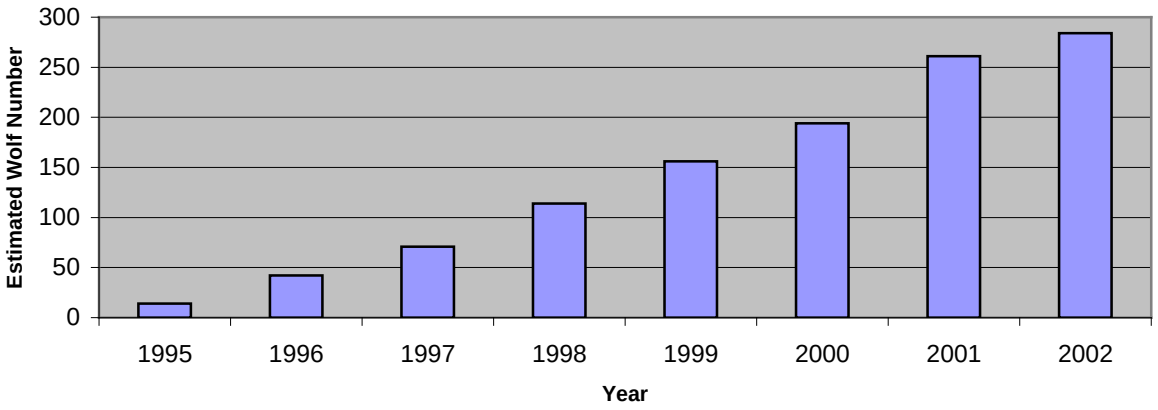
Berg Timber Sale pre- and post-harvest monitoring showed stand densities were reduced by 15 trees per acre. Snags and large diameter ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir were maintained/retained as planned. However, small understory shade-tolerant species (grand fir and Douglas-fir less than 14" dbh) were not reduced and/or eliminated as desired. However, post-harvest prescribed burning will reduce these trees.

Threatened and Endangered Species Habitats/Populations Monitoring

Gray Wolf: A minimum of two confirmed wolf packs (Selway; Gospel-Hump) occupy Nez Perce Forest. Preliminary evidence suggests two more packs may be forming or are active but are officially unconfirmed; one in the Red River Meadows/Moose Butte area and the other in the Little Slate Creek/Van Ridge area. At least thirteen (13) separate wolf sightings and numerous reports of wolf sign were reported on the Forest in FY 2002. A new rendezvous area used by the Gospel-Hump pack was confirmed active in FY 2002 several miles south of Orogrande. A report of wolves feeding on a domestic cow carcass in the Skookumchuck Creek drainage was received and investigated during the spring. The cow was not believed killed by wolves.

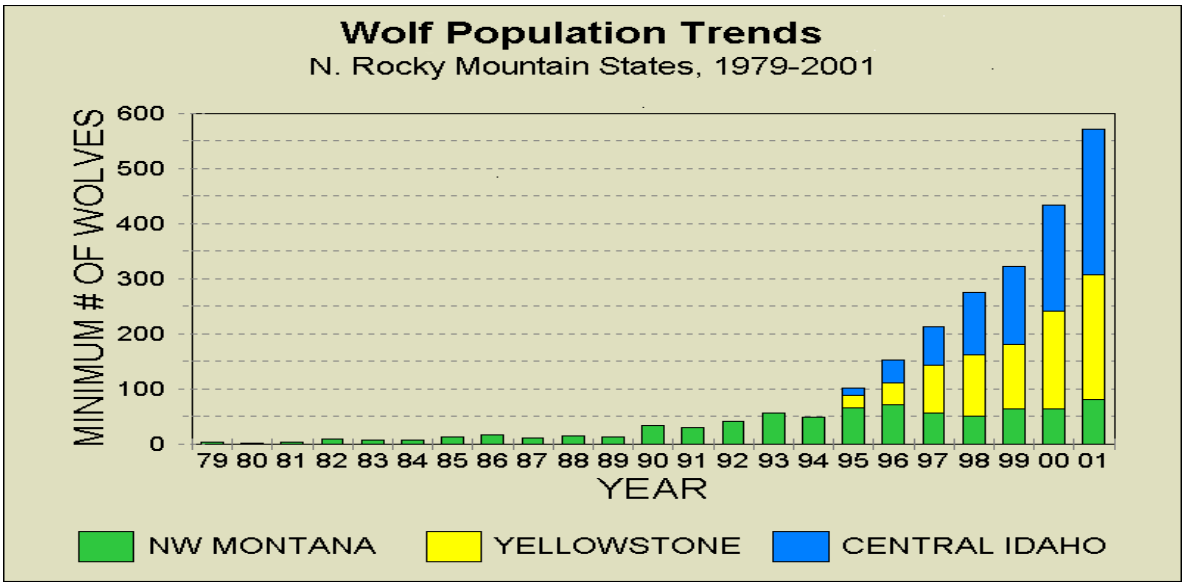
At the end of 2002, the Central Idaho Experimental Population Area had an estimated 284 wolves including 19 known wolf packs. Twelve packs produced litters; 9 met recovery requirements for a breeding pair - an adult male and an adult female wolf that successfully raise at least 2 pups to December 31 of their birth year. The population recovery goal for wolf restoration in the northern Rocky Mountains is to maintain 30 breeding pairs equitably distributed across the 3 restoration areas for 3 years. The Northern Rocky Mountain Recovery Region population recovery goal was achieved in 2002. (http://www.nezperce.org/Wolf/Wolf%20Project%20Report%202003.pdf)

Figure 1: **Central Idaho Experimental Wolf Population**



Statewide wolf recovery monitoring reports continue requesting assistance in reporting wolf presence, and emphasize difficulty in identifying development of new pack formations (Idaho Wolf Update – 28 April 2002). Given wolf recovery progress within the Central Idaho Recovery Area, no restrictions on human access or activities are required to protect wolves from human disturbances on the Nez Perce Forest. Central Idaho confirmed wolf packs easily exceed fifteen. The Wolf Reintroduction Final Rule (Federal Register: Nov. 22, 1994) stated that "when six or more breeding pairs are established in an experimental population area (Central Idaho), no land-use restrictions may be employed outside of national parks or national wildlife refuges, unless wolf populations fail to maintain positive growth rates toward population recovery levels for two consecutive years."

Figure 2: **Northern Rocky Mountains Wolf Population Trends**



Grizzly Bear: In FY 2002, there were no reported observations of grizzly bears by Forest Service biologists or employees, forest visitors, or Idaho Department of Fish and Game personnel.

Peregrine Falcon: The peregrine falcon was de-listed on August 25, 1999. Population monitoring is scheduled to continue through 2004. Both the Shingle Creek and Sheep Gulch peregrine falcon aerie sites were monitored in 2002. No use was observed during monitoring visits at either the Shingle Creek or Sheep Gulch aeries. Numerous other potential nesting-site habitat acres occur in the Salmon River Canyon, but no incidental reports of other peregrine nesting occurred in FY02. FY 02 Monitoring was accomplished in cooperation with the Idaho Department of Fish & Game personnel.

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, counts, and populations trend are shown in the table below.

Table 6: Bald Eagle Monitoring 1984-2002

Survey Route	Salmon River: White Bird to Vinegar Creek		South Fork Clearwater: Farrens Creek to Crooked River		Middle Fork Clearwater: Clear Creek to Selway		Grand Total
Age	Adult	Immature	Adult	Immature	Adult	Immature	
1984	1	0	3	1	9	0	14
1986	2	0	0	0	6	2	10
1987	1	0	1	0	5	2	9
1988	2	1	2	0	10	2	17
1989	2	0	0	0	4	3	9
1990	5	0	0	0	1	1	7
1991	3	0	1	1	4	4	13
1992	2	0	3	0	12	4	21
1993	10	5	0	0	7	1	23
1994	2	1	3	1	9	3	19
1995	6	0	3	6	15	3	33
1996	4	0	2	0	3	1	10
1997	3	0	3	0	5	1	12
1998	11	1	2	1	No data	No data	15
1999	3	0	3	0	5	1	12
2000	10	0	3	0	No data	No data	13
2001	10	0	3	0	No data	No data	13
2002	7	0	2	1	11	6	27

Sensitive Species Monitoring Results*:* Limited funding and staffing precluded opportunities to monitor most other Forest Service sensitive species. Flammulated owl surveys were conducted in the Meadow Face Stewardship Project area in FY02. No birds were detected in or adjacent to harvest units and no evidence of nesting in the Meadow Face Stewardship Project area was detected.

Black-backed woodpecker presence/absence surveys were conducted in the Burnt Flats wildfire burn area and six pairs were detected. In addition, at least five other black-backed woodpeckers were sighted or detected by calling/drumming in the Red River drainage, which is now under attack by mountain pine beetles. One adult and two immature white-headed woodpeckers were observed on the Salmon River Ranger District. Mountain quail surveys were conducted on the Allison-Berg Range Allotment. Neotropical migrant landbirds were again monitored in 2002 as part of the Northern Region Land-bird Monitoring Program. Data was collected in cooperation with the Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game. Long-term monitoring of land-bird populations was continued on the Forest as part of the landscape-scale monitoring across the Northern Region of the Forest Service.

Sensitive Plant Monitoring Results: Response of Puzzling Halimolobos to the 2001 Gus Creek prescription burn was monitored in 2002. *Allotropa virgata* sites along Road 643 were visited again in 2002. No new *Allotropa* shoots were produced in 2002. Monitoring of several other sites of Broad-fruited Mariposa Lily and Clustered Lady's Slipper were also accomplished in 2002. Additional sensitive plant

surveys were conducted for a variety of species within projects areas including Gold Lake Creek Tunnel Excavation, Burnt Flats project areas, Clean Slate project, several bridge replacement sites and the Ragg Station Trail Reconstruction project. *Cypripedium fasciculatum* was monitored on the Clearwater Ranger District in cooperation with the Pacific Northwest Research Station. New sightings of *Botrychium* and *Mimulus ampliatus* were recorded during sensitive plant surveys on various projects.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results

Old Growth (MA 20): Forest Plan old growth standards retention and protection from harvest has been accomplished throughout Forest Plan implementation. Improved recommendations and criteria for determining the best, most suitable old-growth sites are being applied when feasible. These new criteria have resulted in selection and designation of more accurate, habitat-type specific determinations of old growth conditions.

Effects of unnaturally overstocked stands and drought stress leading to stand replacing forest fires, especially where old growth retention is desired, continues to be a concern in ponderosa pine and some drier Douglas fir cover types. Using fire and/or some form of silvicultural thinning to remove understory trees and overstocked conditions acting as "ladder fuels" are being used more frequently to help protect Forest Plan-designated lower elevation old growth forests from unnatural fuel buildups and stand-replacing fires. These actions may become increasingly necessary in the future to sustain healthy lower elevation dry-site old growth habitats, which are critical to maintaining well-distributed, viable populations of some old growth associated species across lower elevations Forest landscapes.

Snag Habitats: Dramatic reductions in overall forest harvest levels and roading has helped reverse past declining snag trends on managed portions of the forest landscape.

Increased use of prescription fire is helping to create new snags and thin stands to help grow larger trees, which eventually serve as future snags. In addition, changes in forest process dynamics associated with increased insects and diseases activity are producing snags at increasing rates in many Forest areas. On August 16, 2002, the Forest Silviculturist and Forest Wildlife Biologist reviewed and compared the Forestwide aerial insect/disease survey map of 1993 with the 2002 survey. The comparison revealed substantial increases in apparent rates of tree disease and death by natural agents across the Forest. 2002 tree death rates appear to be increasing by as much as 70 percent over 1993 rates. The greatest increases in tree mortality rates are widespread, but are most apparent in the dryer and warmer habitat types.

Threatened and Endangered Species Habitats/Populations Monitoring: Threatened, endangered, and sensitive (TES) wildlife and habitats management and protection are routinely evaluated in biological assessments/evaluations. In FY 2002, no projects required terrestrial species formal consultation. Thirteen thousand six hundred twenty-four (13,624) acres of terrestrial TES habitats were inventoried. Two hundred fifty (250) acres of TES habitat were improved using prescription fire.

Gray Wolf: Based on local sightings, sign and formal monitoring results, Forest wolves are abundant, widely distributed, and the population is growing. Local wolf populations demonstrated a sharp upward trend in FY 2002.

Grizzly Bear: In FY 2002, there were no reported grizzly bear observations. Since Forest Plan initiation (1987-present), no confirmed, permanent grizzly occupation exists on the Forest.

Peregrine Falcon: Since Forest Plan initiation, an aggressive reintroduction program on the Forest resulted in a steep upward trend from zero to 37 confirmed peregrines (including natural reproduction) during the first 4 years (1988-92). In 1993, ESA consultation requirements focused the Forest's peregrine falcon monitoring on the Shingle peregrine nest due to its location in the center of an ongoing timber sale. In

1997, the Forest's second nest (Sheep Gulch) was discovered. It fledged five young through FY2000. Available information indicates the long-term population trend is now considered stable or increasing.

Bald Eagle: Forest winter survey routes yielded 20 adult birds and 7 immature birds. This total (27) was substantially higher than most counts from the previous 17 years except for 1995 (33 birds). Based on monitoring data, local bald eagle population trends are considered stable or slightly increasing.

Forest Service Sensitive Animal Species Program: Long-term follow-up monitoring is planned in the Meadow Face Project area after vegetation treatments and prescription burning are completed to determine if predicted habitat changes result in conditions attractive to flammulated owls during the nesting season. It is likely that black-backed woodpecker numbers will increase in the Red River Drainage resulting from the mountain pine beetle epidemic. The Forest Service Northern Region plans to continue long-term landscape-scale land-bird population monitoring on Forest.

Sensitive Plant Monitoring Results: All project areas are surveyed for sensitive plants on a site-by-site basis during NEPA analysis. These surveys continue adding to the list of known sensitive plant locations.

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Forest Plan Item 1e: Acres of Big-Game Habitat Improvement

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: Annually

Variability that would initiate further evaluation: More than one year of variability from planned improvement acreages, excepting variances due to extreme fire conditions.

Monitoring Results: In FY 2002, the Forest total terrestrial wildlife/threatened and endangered species habitat accomplishment, through prescribed burning, was 1048 acres plus 1100 partnership acres co-funded by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has been instrumental in thousands of acres of past Nez Perce Forest habitat improvements for elk and other species.

Table 7: **Big Game Habitat Improvement (**Prescribed Fire, Timber Harvest, Wildfire, and Wildland Fire Used for Benefits)

Fiscal Year	Acres Improved	Fiscal Year	Acres Improved	Fiscal Year	Acres Improved	Fiscal Year	Acres Improved
		1990	10,062	**1995**	2,030	**2000**	33,389
		1991	7,738	**1996**	44,351	**2001**	26,774
		1992	49,907	**1997**	3,048	**2002**	15,909
1988	109,854	**1993**	7,284	**1998**	3,055		
1989	13,432	**1994**	12,847	**1999**	6,623		

Evaluation of Monitoring Results: Direct improvement of elk and deer winter range has fallen short of the annual target of 5,000 acres by at least 41 percent.

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Forest Plan Item 10: Population Trends of Indicator Species – Wildlife

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: FY 2002

Variability that would initiate further evaluation*:* Variability thresholds triggering further evaluation 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 hunter harvest on populations. Evaluating big-game species will be done cooperatively with Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Non-game and threatened/endangered species variability thresholds, for which data is currently limited, can only be determined after sufficient baseline population data is collected. Population viability determinations for most large-bodied or wide-ranging species must be determined across the species' range, often at much larger landscape scales than simply one national forest.

This section covers Management Indicator Species not previously discussed in this report within the Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive wildlife species categories. Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) biologists use aerial surveys, harvest data, and special studies, as needed, principally monitoring hunted species, such as elk, bighorn sheep, and moose. Data is stored by IDFG Region 2 in Lewiston, Idaho.

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 Nez Perce National Forest overall elk herd trends, IDFG historically conducts elk winter-census surveys by helicopter. Results of these winter surveys are available in previous Forest Plan Monitoring & Evaluation Reports. In 2002, IDFG adjusted survey emphasis from previously surveying adults and sex/age ratios to surveying total recruitment (elk calf production and survival).

Monitoring Results:

Elk: Idaho Department of Fish and Game reported recruitment survey data on Nez Perce Forest hunt units 15 and 17.

> Hunt Unit 15 - Idaho Department of Fish & Game survey estimates yielded 35 calves per 100 cows in 2002. According to IDFG, this was up from undocumented estimates of 25 calves per 100 cows a year ago. In this sample hunt unit, short-term trend appears upward and recruitment is considered adequate to maintain local populations.
>
> Hunt Unit 17 - Idaho Department of Fish & Game survey estimates yielded 16 calves per 100 cows. According to IDFG, this is up slightly from an undocumented estimate of 12 calves per 100 cows a year earlier, but total recruitment numbers are still relatively low, and thus population recruitment in this hunt unit remains at a concerning level.

Moose: Moose continue to be seen commonly and are widely distributed on the Forest. In addition, IDFG controlled hunter permit numbers, which were increased in recent years, remain relatively stable.

Bighorn Sheep: Several bighorn sheep were observed incidentally during IDFG mountain goat surveys in Units 19 & 20. Bighorn sheep continue to be observed commonly along the Salmon River.

Pileated Woodpecker: Monitoring counts from five randomly placed survey transects established in 1988 are used to monitor population trends through a relative abundance index. Greater emphasis on observing and documenting incidental pileated woodpeckers sightings helped supplement formal populations monitoring initiated in FY 2002.

Table 8: **Pileated Woodpecker Monitoring Transect Results**

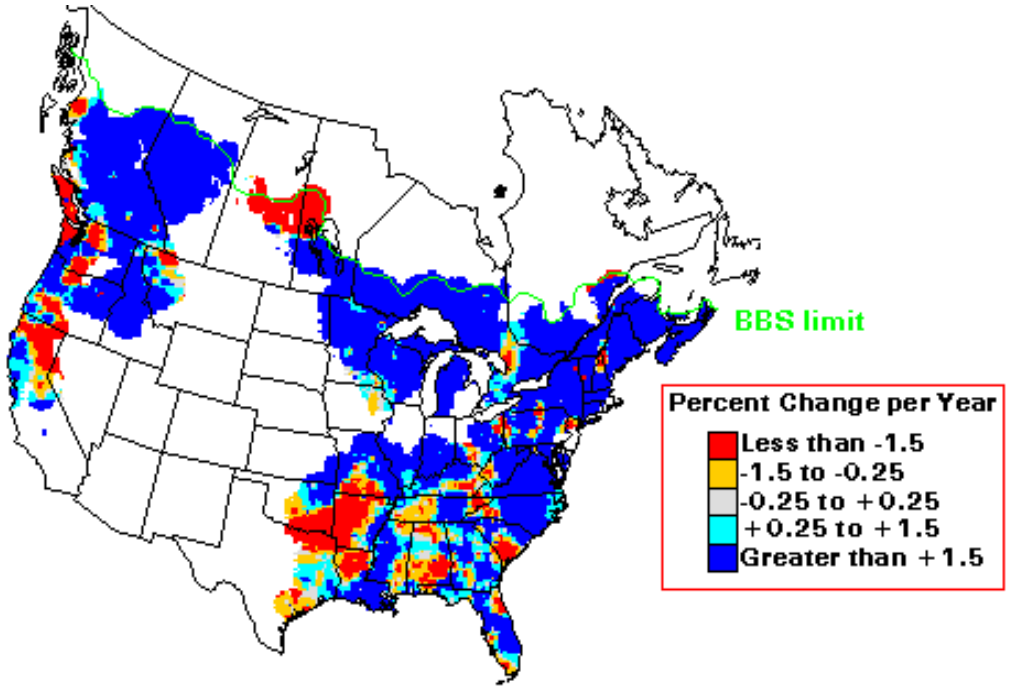
Year	Transects Sampled (#)	Total Counts (Trend index)	Year	Transects Sampled (#)	Total Counts (Trend index)	Year	Transects Sampled (#)	Total Counts (Trend index)	Year	Transects Sampled (#)	Total Counts (Trend index)
			1990	5	6	**1995**	None	No data	**2000**	None	No data
			1991	5	13	**1996**	1	5	**2001**	None	No data
			1992	5	6	**1997**	None	No data	**2002**	4	13
1988	5	9	**1993**	None	No data	**1998**	None	No data			
1989	5	9	**1994**	None	No data	**1999**	None	No data			

To supplement Nez Perce National Forest pileated woodpecker populations monitoring information, population trends were reviewed across a larger scale on October 16, 2002, from the USGS – Patuxent Wildlife Research Center's North American Breeding Bird Survey web site (http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/bbs.html). Analysis for cavity nesting species revealed that among all Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) cavity nester data from 1980-2000, pileated woodpeckers are an "increasing species".

The pileated woodpecker BBS United States trend map (1966-1996) is displayed below and referenced at: (http://wwwmbr -pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/htm96/trn626/tr4050.html). Note that the map for pileated woodpeckers indicates the northern Idaho region (including Nez Perce National Forest), is within larger landscape areas showing a 1966-1996 slight upward trend of > +1.5% change per year.

North American pileated woodpecker population data above is courtesy of the USGS Breeding Bird Survey pileated woodpecker 1966-1996 trend map (http:/ / wwwmbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/ bbs/ htm96/ trn626/ tr4050.html).

Figure 3: **United States USGS Breeding Bird Survey of Pileated Woodpecker Populations**



Pine Marten/Fisher: Pine marten generally occur at lower densities compared to other carnivores, and even lower densities when compared to other mammals (Ruggiero et al. 1994). Fisher/marten winter track surveys were conducted along roads 221, 441, 9303, and 354 in FY2002. In addition, five (5) separate incidental fisher sightings were reported. Two adult fishers were observed at the Highway14/Red River road junction and 2 other adults were observed along Newsome Creek about 1 mile south of the Newsome Creek/Bear Creek confluence. A single fisher was seen above the Newsome Town site. An incidental pine marten sighting was reported a mile from Dixie Summit. Previous monitoring efforts have concluded that Nez Perce Forest pine marten appear to be considerably more common than fishers.

A supplemental population trend index review based on total Nez Perce National Forest fisher sightings and specimen reports per year is available from the Idaho Conservation Data Center's database is summarized from 1985 through 2000 below:

Table 9: **Fisher Sightings (1985-2002)**

YEAR	Sightings	YEAR	Sightings	YEAR	Sightings	YEAR	Sightings
1985	1	**1990**	3	**1995**	2	**2000**	2
1986	3	**1991**	3	**1996**	2	**2001**	
1987	3	**1992**	13	**1997**	2	**2002**	
1988	2	**1993**	1	**1998**	1		
1989	5	**1994**	1	**1999**	0		

Current and past trend monitoring suggests relatively low fisher numbers on the Nez Perce National Forest and is difficult to explain without reviewing the scientific literature. Between 1800 and 1940, fisher populations declined or were extirpated in most of the United States and much of Canada due to over-trapping and habitat destruction by logging (Ruggiero et al. 1994). Fishers were reintroduced in Idaho in 1962-63. Information on fisher densities outside the Northeastern U.S. is limited (Ruggiero et al. 1994). Fisher populations fluctuate with populations prey and in some places exhibit 10-year cycles in response to snowshoe hare population densities. Where fishers were reintroduced (e.g., Michigan, Wisconsin, **Idaho**, Montana), population densities may be low because of insufficient time for populations to build (Ruggiero et al. 1994). A fisher study conducted on the Nez Perce Forest concluded that local fisher populations might be as much influenced by incidental trapping as by changes in habitat (Jones 1991). Finally, current science recognizes that fisher population sizes are difficult to estimate and that all estimates must incorporate considerable sampling error (Ruggiero et al. 1994).

Lynx - One Canada lynx was observed June 2002 near Mallard Creek Campsite along Road 421. Irrespective of Canada lynx presence or absence, many forest management activities within designated lynx habitats are now governed and guided by the conservation measures in the Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy. Idaho Conservation Data Center reports are below:

Table 10: **Lynx Sightings (1989-2002)**

Date	Location
1989	Lightning Creek
1992	Trapper Cr/Pat Brennan Cr.
1991	Earthquake Meadows
1993	Allison Cr./Keating Ridge
1993	Kelly Lakes
1993	Noble Cr./Big Mallard Cr.
1998	Patrol Ridge
2000	Mt. Idaho Junction/Hwy 14
2000	Little Elk Cr. drainage
2001	Schwartz Meadow
2002	Goodwin Meadows

Wolverine - Wolverine are a Nez Perce Forest Service sensitive species. One wolverine was observed and reported on the Red River Ranger District between Gold Point and the Motherlode Road. Previous Idaho Conservation Data Center records are listed below:

Table 11: **Wolverine Sightings (1979-2002)**

Date	Location
1979	Corduroy Cr. – W. of White Bird Station
1980	Santiam Cr.
1983	Big Fog Lake – Crag Mtn.
1985	Goodwin Meadows
1985	North Lone Lake
1987	Road between Elk City & Darby
1988	Trout Cr. – East of Moose Cr.
1985	Pettibone Cr.
1989	Concord Landing Strip -GospHum
1989	Wiseboy Lakes – Gosp Hump
1989	1.5 mi. SE of Buffalo Hump
1991	Big Mallard Cr.
1991	Hump Lake
2001	Turnoff to Old Whitebird grade

Goshawk: Goshawk monitoring for FY2002 was conducted at the Cow Creek, Sherwin Creek, and Cayuse Meadows nests, the Mallard/Cook Ranch, Mallard Creek/Noble Creek sites, and Big Mallard nest sites. Goshawks were observed in the Cow Creek drainage. A knowledgeable Papoose Creek resident reported a new, active goshawk nest. This nest will be monitored next year. Juvenile goshawks responded to tape/playback calls at Mallard Creek/Cook Ranch. A female goshawk was observed and recorded on Road 1852 (1.5 miles northeast of McComas Meadows) during goshawk nest surveys.

In association with a goshawk nest survey on Hungry Ridge, a male goshawk was sighted and recorded at milepost 4 on the Hungry Ridge road in close proximity to several 1995 goshawk observations, indicating presence and likely use of a long-term, but undetected nest in that area. Additionally, at least 2 juvenile and 4 separate adult goshawks were incidentally observed or detected by calls West of Wigwam Creek; on road 234 just East of the Red River Campground sign; at the junction of Trail 586 and FS Road 421; on Trail 207 West of Dixie Summit; and near the Red River Ranger District Office in Elk City. Absence of current use of individual nests currently known within these territories was inconclusive. Goshawks characteristically alternate annual use of two to nine different nests within a given territory to avoid nestling predation. Dramatic declines in 1990's regeneration timber harvest, particularly in late seral and over mature stands, have substantially reduced pressure on goshawk nesting habitats**.**

In 1995, a Forest-wide goshawk nest habitat and nesting survey concluded that: 1) quality goshawk nesting habitat is well distributed across the Forest, and 2) the Salmon River and Clearwater River Ranger Districts contained the highest numbers of watersheds with significant amounts of quality habitat. There are at least 13 confirmed goshawk nests on the Forest. Additional nests continue to be discovered.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results: FY 2002 projects contributed to maintaining viable populations well distributed across the Nez Perce Forest for the following TES and MIS populations or habitats: old growth, gray wolf, grizzly bear, peregrine falcon, bald eagle, sensitive plants, pine martin, fisher, lynx, wolverine, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, pileated woodpecker and goshawk.

Elk: Reviewing elk numbers over the past decade along with recent elk-calf recruitment data through 2002, indicates Forest elk population trends across are considered stable to moderately down. In addition to habitat concerns, total predator population numbers and the cumulative effects on game herds have become

a concern to local sportsmen and IDFG. In response, IDFG has attempted to offer more liberalized hunting opportunities for cougars and bears.

Moose: As evidenced by common incidental sightings and increasing hunter permit numbers the local Shira's moose population trend remains relatively stable or slightly up.

Bighorn Sheep: Bighorn sheep population trend estimates on the Forest remain stable.

Pileated Woodpecker: A complete, fifteen year detailed summary of formal monitoring count data and information from the national Breeding Bird Survey is displayed in Figure 3. FY 2002 woodpecker numbers counted on long-term Nez Perce National Forest transects matched the highest total numbers of birds ever recorded in a given year during the past 15 year period. In addition, twelve (12) additional separate incidental pileated woodpeckers sightings were documented in FY2002 at widely distributed locations across the Forest. Dramatic declines in overall timber harvest rates, especially clearcutting of late seral and over mature grand fir stands since the early to mid 1990's, have substantially helped reduce pressure on late-seral and old growth habitats, this bird's preferred nesting sites. Also beneficial to this bird, snag creation rates appear to be increasing (SeeForest Plan Item 1d, Snag Habitats discussion above).

Available Forest-level data from current and previous year counts along with twelve other 2002 incidental sightings or authenticated pileated calling reports from many Forest locations support the conclusion that local pileated population trends, are relatively consistent with larger scale analysis conclusions including the North American Breeding Bird Survey Trend results. Populations remain relatively healthy and stable.

Pine Marten/Fisher: To more fully evaluate and interpret fisher and marten population monitoring results, it is meaningful to examine trends of historically impactive factors known to affect fisher and marten populations in the literature. Two of the most scientifically recognized threats to fisher and pine marten distributions and population health are: 1) Loss of habitat and/or human-caused habitat fragmentation through clearcutting late-successional forests, and 2) Deliberate and incidental trapping.

Dramatic declines in Nez Perce Forest timber harvest since the mid-1990s, especially clearcutting old forest habitats, has substantially reduced rates of habitat loss and fragmentation in late-seral and old growth.

Similarly, Idaho Department of Fish and Game trapper harvest data has documented major declines in trapper activity levels and pine marten harvest (and thus incidental fisher trapping losses) from 1987 to 1995 throughout IDFG Region II (5 county area including Idaho, Lewis, Nez Perce, Clearwater and Latah counties). The Nez Perce Forest is entirely within Idaho County. During this period, reported marten harvests in IDFG Region II steadily declined from 509 to 5. During this period, statewide marten harvest declined from 2877 to 300, a similar downtrend. Such trends are typically a product of trapper effort levels, which rise and fall with pelt prices. From 1987 to 1995, average reported pine marten pelt prices declined from $38.20 to $17.15. More recently, Idaho County reported pine marten harvest ranged from 1 to 20 marten taken per year from1996 through 2002. Current levels remain dramatically below harvest levels documented from the mid-1980s when the Forest Plan was initiated. Current pelt prices remain depressed.

Based on available monitoring results, incidental sightings, Idaho Conservation Data Center records and consideration of this data within the context of locally monitored downward trends in the two most commonly recognized threats to fisher and marten populations in the western U.S. (trapping pressure and clearcutting old forest habitats), local fisher populations trends appear stable. Since Forest Plan inception, pine marten track counts and incidental sightings indicate marten population trends remain stable.

Goshawk: Based on formal monitoring results, widely scattered incidental sightings, and inventoried habitat information, local goshawk population trends remain relatively stable on the Forest

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Forest Plan Item 11: Validation of Resource Prediction Models: Wildlife

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: 2 to 5 years

Variability that 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 or revision. Local biologist judgment and experience is currently being used to supplement and temper the elk guidelines model in specific management situations as recommended in the current guidelines. Sweeping changes in forest management and harvest methods philosophies have occurred including application of sustainability principles, virtual elimination of clearcutting and new roading, and ecosystem management philosophies implemented since the mid-1990's, as well as declining herd populations have dramatically changed the dominant habitat issues surrounding elk habitat management. Concern for elk recruitment is replacing the issue of population maintenance and protection of bull elk and may be a future driving issue.

Monitoring Results and Evaluation of Monitoring Results: The Forest completed 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 updated the summer-elk habitat model during Venture 20 efforts. Biologists reviewed the elk model methodology and drafted recommended changes.

A Forest Plan revision process currently planned for FY 2003 must be used if these recommended elk modeling modifications or any others are formally proposed to update the Forest Plan. Given the major changes in forest management philosophy during the 1990s and new challenges in elk-population management, continued use of the current elk model will be evaluated during Forest Plan Revision.

Fisheries

1) What did we accomplish?

- Forest projects resulting in a fish habitat condition improvement were accomplished (see monitoring element 1f).
- Cooperative restoration work with the Nez Perce Tribe continued on Meadow, Newsome and Mill creeks.
- Support to other resource activities minimized negative effects and provided positive benefits to the aquatic resource.

2) What outputs and/or work was planned that did not get accomplished?

In general, the planned work was accomplished.

3) What practices need to be changed based on monitoring results?

The results of monitoring continue to be used to adjust the priorities and activities on the Forest to contribute, to the extent possible, to the aquatic resource condition on the Forest. There are no monitoring results available at this time that identifies the need to make large-scale changes in practices on the Forest.

4) What are the current resource conditions and trends compared to desired conditions?

The fisheries resource on the Nez Perce Forest has long been recognized as a very valuable and important resource. The Forest Plan established fish/water quality objectives for Forest subwatersheds (6th code hydrologic units) considering each areas relative potential and value with respect to aquatic and other resources. The Forest Plan also recognizes that some areas do not meet established objectives, or desired conditions. These conditions are a result of many factors, including historic activities. There are a large number of opportunities on the Forest to restore aquatic resource conditions, many of them complimentary with other Forest resource priorities.

Forest Plan Item 1f: Fish Habitat Improvements

Frequency of Measurement: Annually

Reporting Period: Annually

Variability that would initiate further evaluation: ± 10 percent of Plan targets within a decade.

Annual Forest fish habitat improvement accomplishments are measured as miles of stream improved. This includes direct in-stream improvements and improvement activities upstream or upslope of fish habitat. Projects are often co-funded and reported based on the funding proportions. Fish habitat improvement is reported contributing to anadromous fish (species that migrate to the ocean), and inland fish (resident fish species remain in inland waters). In FY 2002, the Forest accomplished one half mile of anadromous fish habitat. The Forest Plan projected 40 acres of improvement.

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Forest Plan Item 2e: Fish Habitat Trends by Drainage

Frequency of Measurement: Annually

Reporting Period: 1 to 5 years

Variability that would initiate further evaluation: A measured 10 percent or more decrease below established objectives.

This monitoring item reports fish habitat condition trend based on evaluating 24 permanent monitoring stations across the Forest. These stations are measured 3 years out of 5 in order to evaluate habitat trend over long periods. Assessment of the data collected at these monitoring stations is ongoing and has not been evaluated.

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

Frequency of Measurement: Annually

Reporting Period: Annually

The Forest Plan was amended by PACFISH (Amendment #20). Ongoing and proposed management activities are evaluated in Biological Assessments (BA) to determine management activity effects on species listed under the Endangered Species Act. In FY 2002, the Forest evaluated management activity effects on fisheries resources in BAs, and received associated concurrence from the National Marine Fisheries Service (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – NOAA) and Fish and Wildlife Service.

Timber

1) What did we accomplish?

- One hundred twenty two acres were pre-commercially thinned.
- Planted 1,119 acres.
- Harvested 1,976 acres or 18.9 MMBF (33.64 CCF).
- Sold 1.1 MMBF (1.96 CCF) of non-chargeable (not part of ASQ) component such as firewood and post and pole material.
- Sold 9.5 MMBF (16.91 CCF) of regular (part of ASQ) component. This volume sold was volume added to active timber sale contracts.

2) What outputs and/or work was planned that did not get accomplished?

Timber sale offering fell short of target by 10.5 MMBF (18.69 CCF).

3) What management practices need to be changed based on monitoring results?

Vegetation management acres need to be increased if the Forest Plan objectives are to be met.

4) What is the current resource condition and trend when compared to desired conditions?

Higher than historical stocking is contributing to increased insect and disease incidence, as well as contributing to potentially higher fire intensities. The trend needs to change to lower density and create more shade intolerant seral species stands.

Forest Plan Item 1h-1: Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) Sold by Components

Measurement Frequency: Annually
Reporting Period: Annually

Variability that would initiate further evaluation: Any change in allowable sale quantity (ASQ) achievement altering the implementation of 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 ASQ is the maximum timber value that may be sold during a planning period from the suitable land base. The ASQ is a sold-volume ceiling. We are now in the second decade (starting 1998) since the Forest Plan Record of Decision (ROD) was signed. The ROD identifies the second decade ASQ at 1,380 MMBF (138 MMBF per year).

Chargeable and non-chargeable volume accomplishments are reported in a Management Attainment Report (MAR). In the past, the chargeable volume was divided into two components: 1) Regular (green live and recently dead resulting from insect/disease or fire) and 2) Non-interchangeable (pulp/cedar products and endemic mortality).

Non-chargeable volume is not considered part of the ASQ, since it was originally not used in calculating the ASQ. Non-chargeable products include: firewood volume removed from unsuitable lands and volume too small or defective to meet regional utilization standards such as post and poles.

For reporting purposes, we are assuming the second decade chargeable volume will be 1,330 MMBF (133 MMBF per year) of regular components and 50 MMBF (5 MMBF per year) of non-interchangeable ASQ.

Monitoring Results: In this report, ASQ achievements will be based on the decade total. Volume is displayed in terms of MMBF.

Table 12: **Chargeable Volume Sold in FY 1988-2002*** (Volume Credited Toward ASQ on an Annual Basis)

	Decade 1Components (1988-1997)			
	Regular (133 MMBF per year)	Non-Interchangeable (5 MMBF per year)		Total
		Pulp	Cedar Products	
FY 1988	104.8	1.3	2.4	108.5
FY 1989	68.9	7.6	1.1	77.6
FY 1990	70.2	10.3	2.7	83.2
FY 1991	94.3	4.8	3.5	102.6
FY 1992	1.3	14.2	0.1	15.6
FY 1993	32.1	10.2	0.1	42.4
FY 1994	6.6	6.4	---	13.0
FY 1995	7.5	6.4	---	13.9
FY 1996	25.6	2.5	---	28.1
FY 1997	21.1	0.3	0.2	21.6
1st Decade Total	432.4	64.0	10.1	506.5
1st Decade Average	43.2	6.4	1.0	50.6
	Decade 2 Components (1998-2002)			
	Regular (133 MMBF per year)	Non-Interchangeable (5 MMBF per year)		Total
		Pulp	Cedar Products	
FY 1998	24.5	0.2	0.2	24.9
FY 1999	12.9	0.9	---	13.8
FY 2000	0.5	0.0	---	0.5
FY 2001	9.5	1.1		10.6
FY 2002	20.4	0.1	---	20.5

*Table information was based on the Nez Perce Periodic Timber Sale Accomplishment Report as of September 30, 2002.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results: The Forest continues to sell well below the Forest's ASQ, with this year's accomplishment being approximately 15 percent of the regular component and 22 percent of the non-interchangeable component. In FY 2002, the Forest sold 0.1 MMBF of the non-chargeable component (not counted as part of the ASQ). This was primarily pulp-wood and post/pole material. Four commercial sales were offered, sold, and awarded in FY 2002.

Table 13: **Table ASQ Volume Sold to Date**

Average Annual ASQ (2nd Decade)	2002 Chargeable Volume Sold	Total Chargeable Volume Sold to Date (1998-2002)	% of Average Annual ASQ Sold for the First 5 years
133.0/year (saw logs)	20.4 MMBF	67.8 MMBF	13.6
5.0 MMBF/year (pulp/cedar products)	0.1 MMBF	2.5 MMBF	0.5
Total 138.0	20.5 MMBF	70.3 MMBF	14.1

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Forest Plan Item 1h-2: Finance Volume Offered Attainment by Components

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: Annually

Discussion: Each year congress appropriates funding to accomplish annual timber targets. Given annual funding fluctuations, "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:

- Accomplishing "timber targets" takes place when a sale is offered, verses ASQ accomplishment credited when a sale is sold. Normally, 45-60 days elapse between sale offering (advertisement in the local paper) and sale selling (contract signing). Sales offered near the end of the fiscal year may be credited to the "timber target" in one fiscal year and credited to ASQ in the next.
- Non-chargeable offered volume (firewood and posts/poles) may be included in "timber target" achievement. The ASQ volume does not include non-chargeable volume.

Monitoring Results: Four sales were offered in FY 2002 totaling 20.5 MMBF (206% of the Forest's assigned target).

Table 14: **Chargeable and Non-Chargeable Volume Offered in FY 2002***

	Volume (MMBF) – FY 2002
Assigned Target	10.0
Accomplishment (Volume Offered)	20.5
% of Target	205.5 %

*Table information is based on the Periodic Timber Sale Accomplishment Report from the database year-end summary.

The target was decreased by one-half at mid-year due to adjustments in forest work priorities. The initial offering of a small salvage sale in Red River campground did not sell. The value of the material was re-appraised and the sale sold in a second offering.

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Forest Plan Item 1i: Acres Timber Harvested by Method

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: Annually

Variability that would initiate further evaluation: Unacceptable interdisciplinary review results.

Monitoring Results: In FY 2002, 717 acres were treated. The table below displays how the treated areas were harvested. Even-aged management was implemented on 552 acres, or 77 percent of the harvest acres. The remaining 23 percent were pre-commercial thinning or intermediate cuts.

Table 15: Nez Perce Forest Acres Harvested by Harvest Type in FY 2002

Harvest Type	Acres	Percent of Harvest
Pre-commercial thinning	73	10.2%
Clear-cut w/Reserves	213	29.7%
Shelterwood Prep Cut	74	10.3%
Shelterwood Seed Cut	162	22.6%
Seedtree Seed Cut	103	14.4%
Intermediate Cuts	93	12.8%
Total	**717**	**100.0%**

Evaluation of Monitoring Results: The Forest Plan envisioned the mix of harvest types to be weighted toward even-aged management. The current **mix** (on a decadal basis) deviates from that planned mix. The **actual acres** of uneven-aged harvest are within the planned acres for the decade. The deviation from the planned harvest mix will not result in serious consequences.

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Forest Plan Item 2f: Vegetative Response to Treatments

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: 5 years (Last reported in FY 2001, next report will be in FY 2006)

Variability that would initiate further evaluation*:* Data and analysis that would indicate that projected yields from regenerated stands are in error.

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Forest Plan Item 4: Acres of Harvested Land Restocked Within 5 Years

Measurement Frequency: Annual for 1-, 3-, and 5-year old regenerated stands

Reporting Period: 5 years (Reported in FY 2001, next report will be in FY 2006).

Variability that would initiate further evaluation: An interdisciplinary team reviews significant deviation from 5-year regeneration period after data.

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Forest Plan Item 5: Site-Specific Examination to determine Suitability of Land for Timber Management

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: 10 years (Last reported in FY 2001, next report will be in FY2011)

Variability that would initiate further evaluation: Significant changes in suitable acres.

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Forest Plan Item 6: Maximum Size Opening for Harvest Units

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: Annually

Variability initiating further evaluation: Unacceptable results of an interdisciplinary team review.

Discussion: Openings, as addressed in the Northern Region Guide, apply to all even-aged silvicultural systems, which include clear-cut, shelterwood cuts, and seedtree seed cuts. For timber management purposes, these are openings until they have adequate stocking that averages 2½ feet or more in height.

Monitoring Results: No units over 40 acres in size were sold in FY 2002.

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Forest Plan Item 11: Validation of Resource Prediction

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: 2-5 years (Last reported in FY 2001)

Variability that would initiate further evaluation*:* If validation efforts show a need for changes to existing resource predictions.

Water Quality

1) What did we accomplish?

- Sixty-two acres of soil and water improvement projects were accomplished using a variety of funding sources. Twenty acres were improved using appropriated watershed funds. The FY2002 assigned target was 40 acres. The Forest Plan goal is 50 acres per year.
- Water quality and stream flow monitoring was conducted at eight stations. Data analysis occurred to support a subbasin-scale total maximum daily load analyses and one ecosystem analysis at the watershed scale.
- Implementation or effectiveness monitoring was documented on one timber sale, and one herbicide-spraying project.

2) What outputs and/or work was planned that did not get accomplished?

Most project monitoring was qualitative rather than quantitative due to the funding constraints and work priorities. Several watershed improvement projects were delayed due to work priorities and lack of staff.

3) What management practices need to be changed based on monitoring results?

There are no monitoring results at this time indicating large-scale changes in management practices are warranted.

Soil management objectives should be better coordinated in timber harvest units where mechanical harvesting, log forwarding and/or whole tree yarding are employed in order to ensure that standards and guidelines for detrimental soil impact and large woody debris retention are not being met.

4) What are the current resource conditions and trends compared to desired conditions?

Watershed condition has probably improved gradually in most watersheds over the past decade, because of marked reductions in road construction and logging, and reduction of mining and grazing impacts. With some exceptions, there has also been a relative absence of large-scale stand-replacing wildfires recent decades. Recovery has been primarily natural. Watershed improvement projects within the last few years have become more ambitious in scope, including road obliteration and decommissioning, as well as mine reclamation projects and channel and valley bottom restoration projects.

Subbasin-scale assessments identify the need to more highly emphasize restoration in certain key watersheds to recover aquatic habitat potential. Developing a coordinated strategy could increase recovery effectiveness. Recovery rates could be improved by giving higher priority to restoration in program planning and implementation.

Forest Plan Item 1j: Water Rehabilitation and Improvements

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: Annually

Variability that would initiate further evaluation: If the Forest did not achieve its fiscal year target.
Implementation Monitoring Results: The Forest's FY 2002 assigned and funded soil and water improvements target was 40 acres. The Forest accomplished 20 acres using watershed funds and 42 acres using other funds, totaling 62 acres. The Forest Plan goal is 50 acres per year.

Table 16: **Summary of Watershed Improvements Accomplished in FY 1988-2002 (by Acres Improved)**

Year	Funding Source				
	Soil and Water (Watershed Funds)	Knutsen-Vandenberg (KV)	Roads	Other Funding	Total
1988	74	52	113	70	309
1989	131	93	57	147	428
1990	159	82	76	3	262
1991	120	85	25	32	262
1992	214	79	82	12	387
1993	244	108	90	63	505
1994	243	79	77	43	442
1995	314	74	54	5	447
1996	190	46	2	1	239
1997	143	4	24	19	190
1998	85	4	0	0	89
1999	81	0	60	0	141
2000	169	7	61	0	237
2001	24	0	10	28	62
2002	20	10	11	21	62

The following is a brief summary of 2002 watershed improvement projects:

Salmon River Ranger District: The District accomplished 6 acres. Projects included North Fork Slate Creek range exclosure, Schwartz Meadow fence, Rag Station Trail, Shells Lick rehabilitation and Crawford Trough improvement.

Clearwater Ranger District: The District accomplished 46 acres. Projects included Road #2021 revegetation; Lodge Point Road revegetation; Castle Creek riparian planting; McComas Meadows and Swede Creek restoration with the Nez Perce Tribe); Fish Creek exclosure; and Silver West KV watershed improvements.

Moose Creek Ranger District: The District accomplished 10 acres on the Swiftwater Hamby road-decommissioning project.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results: From 1988 through 1996, the Forest exceeded its 200 acres per year Forest Plan watershed improvement goal. This goal was not achieved for FY 1997 through 1999, but was exceeded in FY 2000. In FY 2001 and 2002, the Forest had its lowest level of watershed improvement accomplishment since the Forest Plan came into effect.

An overall watershed improvement program evaluation has not been conducted. In recent years, improvement projects have emphasized large road decommission projects, resulting in relatively high unit costs and lower total acres accomplished. Per unit area treated, on-the-ground effects of decommissioning

projects are probably more significant and long lasting than many earlier approaches. In FY 2001 and 2002, a higher percentage of low unit cost projects were completed. In the near future, several large watershed restoration projects are scheduled for implementation. However, funding is unknown and the Forest could be financially limited in its ability to implement these projects. Watershed improvement funding may increase in FY 2003.

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Forest Plan Item 2h: Impacts of Management Activities on Water Quality

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: Annually

Variability that would initiate further evaluation: Detected Idaho State Water Quality Standard violations or if Forest Plan fish/water quality objectives were not met within acceptable timeframes.

Monitoring Results: Stream flow and water quality data were collected at eight gauging stations. Variables sampled included stream discharge, suspended sediment, bed load sediment, water temperature, and conductivity.

Seven storage precipitation gauges, five recording precipitation gages, five hydrothermographs, and two snow courses were maintained in FY 2002. Fire personnel conducted additional weather monitoring.

Water temperature data were collected at about 50 sites across the Forest using electronic reading thermographs. Annual temperature data collection began about 1990.

Physical stream channel morphology measurements have been taken at about 20 permanent stations across the Forest. Each station was initially measured between 1988-1990. About half of the stations have been remeasured, with the remainder planned for remeasurement.

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 and 1998-2002.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results: Stream flow and sediment yield data analysis from gauged water quality monitoring stations is ongoing. From 1995 through 2001, emphasis was given to data analysis pertaining to instream water right claims filed under the Snake River Basin Adjudication.

In 2002, the Forest analyzed South Fork Clearwater River bed load and suspended sediment samples as part of a cooperative study with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. Water quality data were also compiled for the Red River Watershed Analysis. Forest stream flow, climatic data, water quality and related monitoring data are available upon request.

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Forest Plan Item 2i: Water Quality – Project Level Administration Reviews and Field Studies

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: Annually

Variability that would initiate further evaluation: Violations of Forest Plan standards or Idaho Water Quality Standards.

Monitoring Results: One Forest-level interdisciplinary monitoring review was conducted in 2002. The field Mackey Day Timber Sale review checked compliance with Forest Plan standards, environmental document requirements and regulatory agency requirements. The field review also met the Forest's obligation under a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Idaho to monitor a target of ten percent of activities that fall under the Idaho Forest Practices Act Rules.

Mackey Day Timber Sale: A field review was conducted on September 12, 2002. Representatives from Nez Perce National Forest, Nez Perce Tribe, Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho Department of Fish and Game and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries attended. A field review summary is provided below. Complete notes of the review are available upon request. Conclusions cannot be drawn because data was not collected at the field review.

Background: The Mackey Day Timber Sale was approved in 1989 under the Wing Creek-Twentymile Record of Decision. The sale was sold in 1992 and awarded in 1996. Some road construction and logging began in 1996, but additional work was suspended through 1999. New species listings under the Endangered Species Act delayed progress. The sale constructed 5.4 road miles and provided 7.9 million board feet from 15 units. Two helicopter yarding units remained unharvested.

Stop #1 - Unit 10: This was a seedtree prescription, harvested with a log forwarder in fall 2000. Although no measurements were taken, visual observations suggest the lower end of the unit may be close to exceeding the Forest Plan standard of less than 20 percent detrimental disturbance. The current guideline of 25 tons/acre of 4 inch and larger diameter, as applied to wet sites, appeared to have been met on the unit. The unit was scheduled for broadcast burn and natural regeneration. However, it was not burned and the site was planted. The consensus was that burning and natural regeneration were preferable and still possible in portions of the unit. Forest Plan snag guidelines appeared to have been met. PACFISH riparian habitat conservation areas were present and protected. A portion of excavated forwarder trail was obliterated and showed no signs of erosion.

Stop #2 – Unit 9: This unit was logged with a mechanical harvester and skidded over the snow in winter 2001-2002. It was whole tree yarded, followed by grapple piling. The unit was originally planned for natural regeneration, but will probably need planting. Although slash treatment objectives were met, the group generally agreed that more large woody debris should have been left. Reviewers believed that more standing trees should have been left as snags. Snags, reserve trees and large woody debris were not measured or counted, therefore it was not determined if guidelines were met.

Stop #3 – Unit 8: This unit was logged with a feller-buncher and forwarder in fall 2000 and excavator-piled in summer 2001, followed by jackpot burning. It was planted in spring 2002. The unit was a clearcut with reserve trees. The unit was low on snags, but snags were not counted to determine if guidelines were met. The unit had good large woody debris retention on the ground, but it was not measured in order to determine if guidelines were met. The forwarder trails were well protected with slash.

Stop #4 – area near Unit 6: This unit was a commercial thin logged with a feller-buncher and forwarder. Most of the volume came from the trails, with about one-third of the total volume removed. Slash was

pulled into the trails and left. The prescription was written as a shelterwood preparatory cut. Reviewers agreed the area generally has been missing the mixed severity disturbance that would result in a better tree species mixture. Future treatments of this type would probably be proposed on a larger scale in order to emulate natural disturbance patterns.

Stop #5 – Road 9829 and 9829D: These roads were built to access the timber tale. The roads were designed with an 80% sediment mitigation objective. It appeared design and mitigation measures were implemented and performing as expected. Opinions varied as to the necessity of these relatively high standard roads. The roads were built with ditched and non-ditched sections and generally, it was agreed that this was desirable. There was more slash in the slash filter windrow than needed for sediment mitigation causing some fire hazard concerns. The roads are open to non-motorized transportation and snowmobiles.

Forest Practices Act Summary: The activities reviewed in the Mackey Day Timber Sale were found to comply with Idaho Forest Practices Act Rules. It was noted that violations of Section 040.04.d.i (maintenance of drainage structures) have been observed on inactive roads elsewhere on the Forest.

White Bird Watershed Herbicide Residue Monitoring: The Forest has a ground-based herbicide application program to treat spot infestations of noxious weed. A pilot-monitoring plan provides baseline data and allows us to gain experience in monitoring herbicide application effects on water quality. A monitoring protocol was implemented in 2002 on the White Bird watershed. This watershed has yellow starthistle and spotted knapweed infestations; has been treated in the past; and is a candidate for more extensive treatment programs starting in 2003.

Monitoring was conducted three times relative to application – pre-treatment, during-treatment, and post-treatment after the next precipitation event. In-stream monitoring occurred at two locations: Bull Run Creek, a tributary stream of South Fork White Bird Creek and the North and South Forks of White Bird Creek near the Forest Boundary.

Ground-based herbicide application occurred on the Forest July 31-August 7, 2002. Approximately 5.50 acres were spot treated in Bull Run Cove with a tank mix of Picloram and 2,4-D at the rate of 32 oz/acre. Actual product applied across the area was approximately 189 ounces. Two ounces of Clopyralid was applied across 0.25 acre in Bull Run Cove. All ground based herbicide applications were more than 200 feet from stream banks. Additional aerial herbicide application on private and state land adjacent to the Forest and within the White Bird Watershed occurred during mid-May. Approximately 160 acres in North Fork White Bird Creek Drainage and 280 acres in the lower South Fork White Bird Creek drainage were treated through Idaho County Weed Control.

Twelve samples were tested for four herbicides from four monitoring site in the lower White Bird Watershed. Samples were taken on July 11, August 8 and September 17. The samples showed non-detectable herbicides levels, with one exception from the August 8 sample. Picloram was detected at a level of 0.03 parts per billion (ppb) in the during-treatment sample at South Fork White Bird Creek.

The explanation for the detection at one site during treatment operations is unclear. The closest herbicide application to a sample site occurred in Bull Run Cove. However, herbicides were not detected from either of the Bull Run sites. If the herbicide entered the stream because of Forest Service operations, the herbicides would have reached both Bull Run monitoring stations before the South Fork White Bird site, as Bull Run Creek is upstream. Drift from aerial treatment on private and state lands is a possibility. However, aerial operations managed by Idaho County were greater than ¼ mile (horizontal distance) from the South Fork White Bird monitoring station.

Rainbow trout studies show a No Observed Adverse Effect Level (NOAEL) of 550 ppb for Picloram. The detected 0.03 ppb value is just above the 0.01 ppb laboratory detection limit and well below the rainbow trout NOAEL. It is recommended that herbicide monitoring continue on selected future projects.

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Forest Plan Item 2j: Impacts of Management Activities on Riparian Areas

Measurement Frequency: Annually
Reporting Period: Annually; Item 2j will not be reported in FY2002. This item will be reported in 2003.

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

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: 2-5 years

Variability that would initiate further evaluation: If validation efforts show a need for changes.

Monitoring Results: The Forest uses NEZSED, an adaptation of the R1/R4 Sediment Yield guidelines (USDA Forest Service, 1981) to estimate average annual sediment yields. NEZSED model tests were done on natural sediment yield for several first and second order streams in 1987. In 1994, an evaluation of NEZSED on eight 3rd to 5th order streams was completed through a master's thesis. The 1994 analysis was conducted with data from eight gauging stations collected during 1986 through 1993. In 1995, NEZSED was tested against sampled data from two larger sub-basins.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results: In 2002, the 1994 analysis using data collected through Water Year 2002 was extended. Evaluation is ongoing.

Soil Quality

Forest Plan Item 2g: Impacts of Management Activities on Soils

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: Annually; Item 2g will not be reported in FY2002. This item will be reported in 2003.

Range

1) What did we accomplish?

- Basic permit administration was accomplished on active allotments.
- Implementation monitoring of the Annual Operating Instructions was accomplished.
- Allowable use levels were monitored on active allotments.

2) What outputs and/or work was planned that did not get accomplished?

- Scheduled allotments were not assessed in the NEPA process.
- Additional effectiveness monitoring sites along sensitive stream channels are needed.

3) What practices need to be changed based on monitoring results?

- Improve administration and inspections of existing range improvements to ensure that required maintenance is completed.
- Improve communication between fish biologists, range specialists, and permittees concerning effective grazing practices and riparian habitat management for federally listed fish.

4) What is the current resource condition and trend compared to the desired condition?

- From visual assessments and implementation monitoring, riparian areas generally appear to be improving or maintaining conditions within active allotments. There remains isolated areas where grazing is affecting specific riparian attributes. Long-term effectiveness monitoring is needed to validate these assessments.
- Upland (non-forested) vegetation is generally in stable condition. However, many low elevation grasslands have a significant component of annual grasses or exotic forbs. Little change is expected in the condition of non-forest vegetation over the next five years.

Forest Plan Item 1g: Animal Unit Months Grazing Permits

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: Annually

Variability that would initiate further evaluation*:* ± 10 percent of Forest Plan Estimate

Monitoring Results: The Forest permitted 32 permittees to graze 28,836 animal unit months (AUMs) during the FY2002 grazing season. The Forest authorized 25,870 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 25 percent less than the current permitted levels.

Table 17: Grazing Permitted Use and Authorized Use in FY 2002

	Cattle (AUMs)	Horses & Burros (AUMs)	Sheep & Goats (AUMs)	Total AUMs
Permitted to Graze	25,867	71	2,898	28,836
Authorized to Graze	24,409	28	1433	25,870

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Forest Plan Item 1l: Range Analysis and Allotment Management Plan Updates

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: Annually

Variability that would initiate further evaluation: ± 10 percent of Forest Plan Estimate

Discussion: On July 27, 1995, President Clinton signed the 1995 Rescission Bill (PL 104-19). Section 504 of the Bill, pertains 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 analysis must be scheduled within the next fifteen years.

All allotments needing analysis have been placed on a schedule to be completed by 2015. The schedule is updated to reflect changes in resource information, Forest management priorities, Forest Plan Revision and funding. With current funding levels and Forest priorities, allotment revision planning efforts scheduled for FY02 have been postponed to future years.

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

- *Forage Utilization:* 40% or less of the current growth by weight, measured during the grazing period.
- *Shrub Utilization:* 40% or less of the available current year's growth, measured as a percent of the leader length browsed.
- *Bank Disturbance:* 10% of the bank distance.

Stream reaches accessible to livestock were monitored. Forage utilization, shrub browsing and bank disturbance were estimated as the inspector walked the designated stream reaches. The percentages represent the average levels found along the stream reaches where monitoring took place.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results: Monitoring suggests permittees were successful in meeting the annual operating instruction grazing standards stated. At a few locations, use/disturbance met allowable standards and permittees herded animals to underutilized areas. Each time this occurred, the permittees promptly removed livestock from the area of concern. Grazing along many streams was far below the annual operating instruction allowable levels. Monitoring results and grazing management were reviewed and discussed with the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries to ensure allotment management complied with the biological assessments.

Recreation

1) What did we accomplish?

- The Forest continued use of a new financial reporting system that required the completion of a new trail and recreation database.
- Forest personnel continued conducting a physical inventory of recreation and trail assets (20 percent a year) per National Direction. At the end of 2002, condition surveys had been completed for 80 percent of our facilities.
- Continued Recreation Fee Demo Program, which includes most of the current fee campgrounds and the cabin rental program.
- Cooperated with Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Idaho County Snowmobile Advisory Committee, High Country Snowmobile Club of Elk City, Valley Cats Snowmobile club of Kooskia, and Sno-Drifters Snowmobile Club of Grangeville to groom 330 miles of snow trails in State Snowmobile Grooming Areas 25A and 25B.
- Cooperated with Idaho Parks and recreation in the Park N' Ski program to provide for seven miles of groomed and tracked cross country ski opportunities on the Forest.
- The Forest worked with a variety of volunteer groups and individuals to complete trail maintenance, trail reconstruction, and rehabilitation, signing, campground maintenance, and visitor contacts. These volunteers were members of organizations representing motorized trail vehicles (4-wheelers, motorcycles, snowmobiles), stock users, youth groups, and Tribal youth/young adults. Many

individuals not associated with organized groups also volunteer their skills to assist with the accomplishment of many recreation-associated tasks. In 2002 approximately 13 percent of the trail miles maintained were maintained by volunteers and through partnerships, including Idaho Parks and Recreation's State Trail Rangers Program.

- Constructed 3 new packable trail bridges in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness over Pettibone, Ditch, and Goat Creeks.
- With assistance from the Valley Cats Snowmobile club and ATV club, the Forest Service installed a new toilet at the Hamby Warming Hut.
- Administered 65 recreational special use permits for outfitters and guides, recreation events, resort and vender permits.
- Continued rental cabin program.
- Coordinated efforts with Salmon/Challis National Forest to better manage river patrols on the Salmon River
- Personnel administered scenic easements on the Salmon and Selway Rivers.
- Completed challenge cost share/partnership projects with Idaho Whitewater Association, Mountain Cove School, and the Girl Scouts of America. Projects involved campsite cleanup and noxious weed control on the Main Salmon River.
- Maintained developed recreation sites, including campgrounds, boat ramps, and swimming areas.

2) What outputs and/or work was planned that did not get accomplished?

- Available funding and personnel limited new recreation special use permits to 1-3 day events.
- Red River Campground was closed due to the several hazard tree situations in the campground.

3) What management practices need to be changed based on monitoring results?

No evaluation was completed therefore no changes in management practices are indicated at this time.

4) What are current resource conditions and trends compared to desired conditions?

While the national trend in recreation use is increasing, recreation dollars to the Nez Perce Forest have been declining over the past several years. The effects of increased national regulation, high level planning costs, fixed overhead costs, and inflation, aggravate the budget situation. These factors continue to negatively influence the amount of funds available to unit recreation programs. The result has been a loss of permanent and seasonal recreation positions, a reduction in the service and maintenance of recreation facilities, a reduced recreation special use program, and fewer miles of trails maintained.

The Forest kept all recreation facilities open except for Red River Campground. This was largely due to the dedication of Forest employees, along with grants, partnerships, and help from volunteers.

It is projected that recreational use within the national forest system will continue to increase in the near future more demand for recreation will be associated with the approach of the Lewis and Clark Centennial. It is safe to assume that recreation use on the Nez Perce National Forest will follow this trend. This will present a challenge as recreation budgets are projected to be flat or slightly lower over the next three to five years. The recreation and recreation trails programs might be affected in several ways, including:

- Service and maintenance will be a minimum levels
- Some campgrounds may be closed
- The Forest will lose some of its investment in recreational facilities
- Fewer miles of trails will be maintained
- The ability to process recreation special use applications will be curtailed.

Given recreation projections, it will be incumbent upon the Forest to determine public needs and organize to meet those needs to the fullest extent possible. It should be realized, however, that the recreation programs of the near future might be very different from the current approach to recreation management.

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Forest Plan Item 1a: Recreation Visitor Days

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: 5 years

Monitoring Results: 11,723 recreation visitor days were recorded in FY 2002.

River Recreation Resources

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1) What did we accomplish?

The Forest Plan (V-7) requires annual river recreation resource monitoring. The monitoring was competed for FY 2002. The data is available at the Slate Creek Ranger Station. Monitoring results are reported every five years. The rationale behind these reporting requirements is that while change may occur incrementally, trends are better explored over longer time periods.

2) What outputs and/or work was planned that did not get accomplished?

Monitoring efforts will be reported in the FY 2004 Monitoring Report.

3) What management practices need to be changed based on monitoring results?

Monitoring efforts will be reported in the FY 2004 Monitoring Report.

4) What are the current resource conditions and trends compared to desired conditions?

A complete review of the social, ecological, and administrative trends will be reported FY 2004.

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

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: 5 years (Last reported in FY 2001, next report will be in FY 2006).

Variability that would initiate further evaluation*:* Following a 5-year period, variation which would indicate that Forest Plan direction requiring a full range of recreation opportunities is not being met, or if the semi-primitive classes are being lost more quickly than specific in the Plan.

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Forest Plan Item 2a: Off-Road Vehicle Impacts

Measurement Frequency: Annually

R**eporting Period:** 5 years (waiting completion of a study)

Variability that would initiate further evaluation: Unacceptable impacts caused by off-road vehicle use.

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

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: 5 years (Reported in FY 2001, next report will be in FY 2006).

Variability that 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.

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Forest Plan Item 2c: Limits of Acceptable Change in Wilderness

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: 5 years (Last reported in 2001, next report will be in FY 2006)

Variability that would initiate further evaluation: After a 5-year review period, changes in wilderness exceeded acceptable limits.

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Forest Plan Item 2d: Achievement of Visual Quality

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: 5 years (Last reported in FY 2001, next report will be in FY 2006).

Variability initiating further evaluation: After 5 years of monitoring, an assessment indicates visual quality objectives are not being met.

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

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: 5 years (Last reported in FY 1999, next report will be in FY 2004)

Variability that would initiate further evaluation: Following a 5-year period, information that would indicate management direction for designated eligible wild, scenic, or recreational rivers is not being followed.

Fire

1) What did we accomplish?

The Forest continued successful implementation of the Federal Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy on the Forest in FY 2002. This included the use of appropriate management response, wildland fire use, and management ignited prescribed fire to meet Forest Plan goals, standards, and expectations.

A Programmatic Biological Assessment of the Fire Management Program for Fall Chinook Salmon, Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon, Steelhead Trout, Bull Trout (ESA listed species), and Spring Chinook Salmon, Westslope Cutthroat Trout (USFS sensitive species) continued to be implemented.

National Fire Management Analysis was completed in 1997, establishing a most cost efficient level (MEL) for the Nez Perce National Forest. The Forest was funded at 95 percent of MEL.

The FY 2002 fire season was very active nationally and moderately active in the northern region. Fire danger indicators reached the high and very high levels earlier than normal and continued to climb until all stations were reporting extreme values. The dry summer weather had fewer thunderstorms than normal, which limited the number of lightning caused fires. The Forest had one large fire.

Table 18: **Large Fires on Nez Perce National Forest in FY 2002**

Fire	Administrative Unit(s)	Acres
Kelly Creek	Salmon River RD	3,300

All wildfires on the Forest were successfully managed under appropriate management response policies. Lightning fire starts and, therefore, total fire starts and total acreage were well below average. Human caused fire starts and acreage burned were about average.

The 10-year trend for managing natural ignitions for resource benefits shows an increase. Acres burned for Wilderness benefits (5,676) exceeded the acres damaged by unwanted fires (3,380).

The natural fuels/hazardous fuels reduction program exceeded the Forest Plan projected output of 6,265 acres for the 1998 to 2007 period by accomplishing 12,240 acres this year. This also exceeded our target of 9,400 acres.

Fuel treatment from all funding sources increased slightly in FY 2001, the fifth year of program increase. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation contributed funding to prescribed burning projects.

2) What outputs and/or work was planned that did not get accomplished?

- The Brush Disposal MAR target of 1,100 acres was not met; only 1,080 acres were treated.
- Planning for future hazardous fuels reduction projects generally fell behind schedule.
- The Grangeville based National Air Tanker never arrived here due to the grounding of the PB4Y segment of the fleet. We did position two 'call-when-needed' single engine air tankers at Grangeville during the later part of the fire season.

3) What management practices need to be changed based on monitoring results?

No evaluation was completed therefore no changes in management practices are indicated at this time.

4) What are the current resource conditions and trends compared to desired conditions?

Appropriate Management Response

- Suppression oriented responses to wildland fires are generally successful; this continues the past trend of wildland resource protection.

- Fuel accumulation has occurred, potentially resulting in larger more intense fires. The trend toward higher intensity fires is a departure from historic variable fire intensity patterns on the landscape.

Prescribed Fire

Fewer acres are being burned today from both planned and unplanned ignitions that burned historically (before fire exclusion policies began). The recommendations from Subbasin assessments and watershed analysis are for increased prescribed fire and/or natural fire in most ecosystems. The need is greatest in short fire return interval ecosystems. The Forest has been increasing hazardous fuels treatments. Completion of the Salmon River Canyon Environmental Impact Statement will position the Forest to significantly increase acres treated.

Field reviews indicate prescribed burning objectives are being met.

Despite increases in prescribed burning, the need for fire disturbance processes identified in Subbasin assessments will not be met.

The trend for prescribed fire projects is for increasingly complex objectives, constraints, and mitigations; (i.e. air quality, noxious weeds) potentially constraining future accomplishments.

Wildland Fire Use

Natural fires in wilderness areas are returning some areas to a more historic vegetative condition. However, fires are burning fewer acres than were burned in the pre-exclusion era and current fire intensities are often higher than in the past. The desired condition would be to return to historic fire regimes with greater acreages burned at lower fire intensities.

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

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: 5 years

Variability that would initiate further evaluation: Unusual number of person-caused fires over the 10-year average, indicating a trend of 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 cost of fire suppression (over the 10-year average); inability to meet expectations contained in the National Fire Management Analysis for the Forest as per budget level allocated for current year.

Monitoring Results

Fire & Aviation Management Preparedness: Our goals are to prevent, suppress, and manage fire commensurate with resource values, while recognizing the fires ecological role. We will implement the five Key Points of the National Fire Plan: 1) firefighting preparedness, 2) restoration and rehabilitation of burned areas, 3) hazardous fuels treatment, 4) community assistance, and 5) accountability. The National Fire Plan is the Plan of Work identified in *The Impacts of Wildfire on Communities and the Environment, A Report to the President In Response to the Wildfires of 2000.*

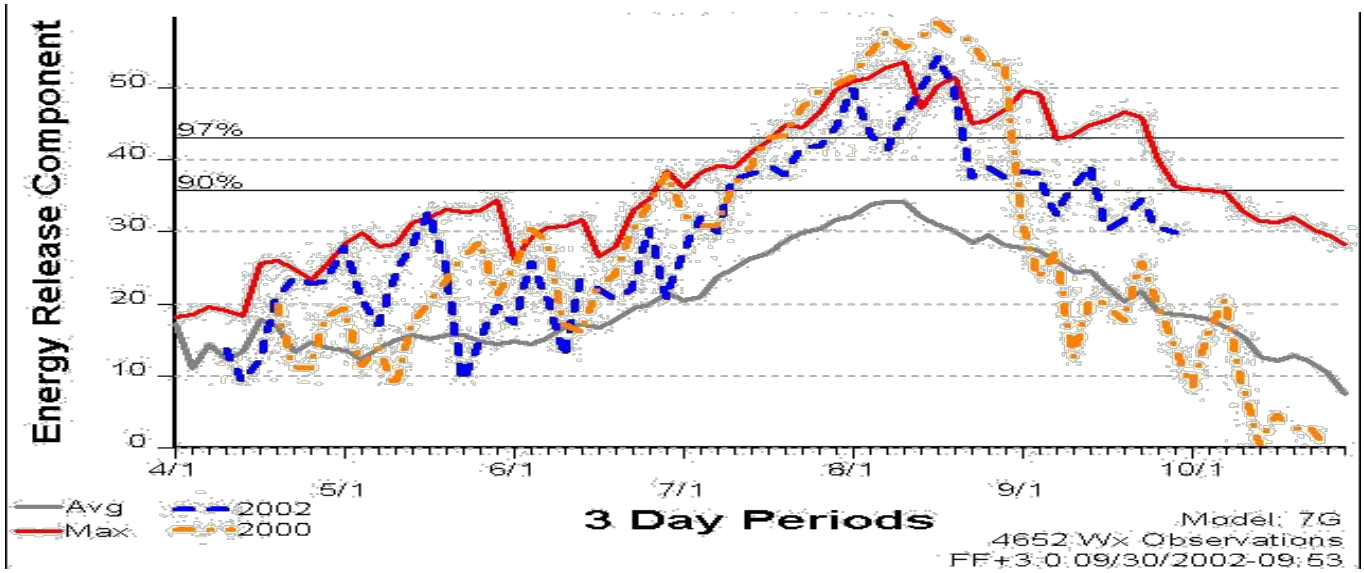
Our objectives in 2002 were to:

- Cautiously implement the Region 1 Workforce Plan; providing fire preparedness resources at 95 percent of the Most Efficient Level (MEL) a 5 percent reduction from 2001, adding additional firefighting positions (key points #1 and #5 stated above).

- Continue to stress **SAFETY** as the first priority in all fire management activities with special emphasis on the aviation program. Implement the *30-Mile Abatement Action Plan*.
- Integrate *"Ecosystem Management"* concepts into fire management programs. Look at ways to utilize and incorporate fire treatment into sustaining healthy ecosystems, concentrating on restoring fire adapted ecosystems (key point #2).
- Continue fire use to accomplish management objectives for hazardous fuel reduction, site preparation, wildlife habitat improvement, and ecosystem management through prescribed fire and wildland fire use programs (key point #3). Continue wildland fire use implementation consistent with the Forest Plan and National Fire Policy.
- Continue cooperation with other fire protection agencies; and evaluate fire protection boundaries to promote economic and efficient fire suppression. Work with communities to increase fire protection capability and support expansion of economic diversity (key point #4).

Winter 2002 could be described as mild with lower than average snowfall, precipitation, and snow pack and higher than average temperatures. However, snowfall did continue into late spring with snow-pack remaining in many areas into June. This delayed the start of fire season in Idaho. We did experience hot conditions with low humidity in early July with several stations setting record high temperatures. Summer lightning storm activity was limited until mid August and then most storms were accompanied by precipitation. September and October were generally dry and provided good opportunity for prescribed burning efforts.

Figure 4: **Clearwater/Nez Perce Forest Fire Management Zone Energy Release Component**



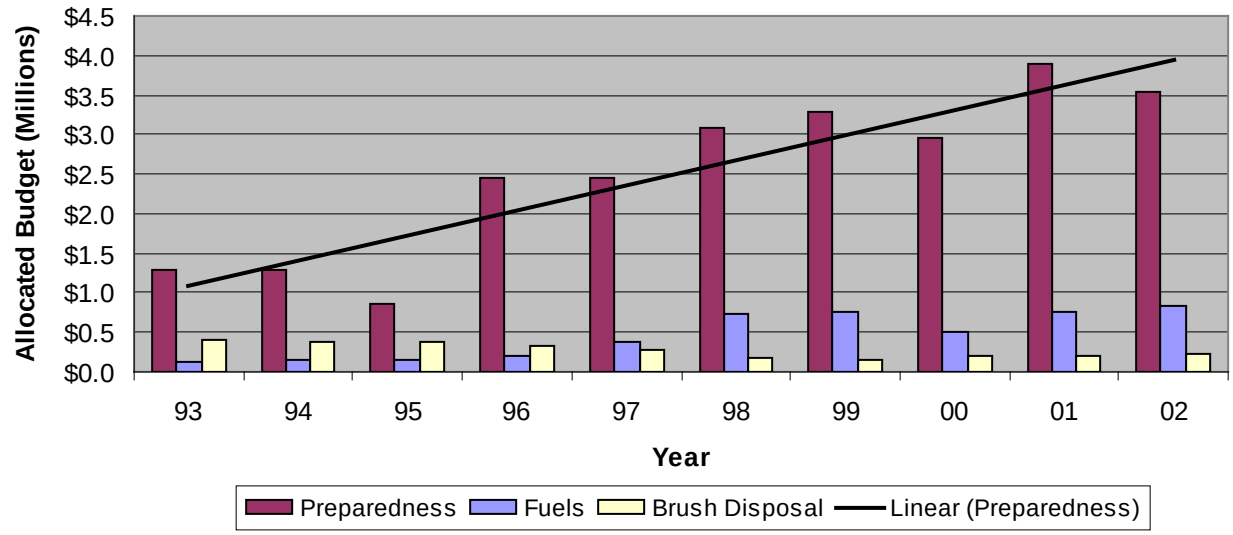
Clear/Nez Fire zone managed 24 Wildland Fire Use Events that burned approximately 3513 acres. No holding or suppression activity was required on any Fire Use Events.

By August, burning conditions became more severe with Energy Release Components and Burning Indices above the 97th percentile. Fire Danger was above average from the beginning of July to the beginning of October. (See the graph)

The Forest continued implementing the **Federal Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy**. This policy was adopted nationally in 1998, incorporates nine guiding principles, and providing consistent fire management direction for all federal agencies.

Funding to protect Forest resources from fire is based on the **National Fire Management Analysis System,** an analysis tool designed to determine the most efficient level of fire protection budget. This analysis is based on fire history, fire weather, and past organizational levels. It establishes the most cost efficient mix of personnel, equipment, and budget needed to provide firefighting resources to meet land management objectives. The program was last certified in 1997 and the most cost efficient organization was determined, costs to produce MEL are updated annually through out-year budget submissions.

Figure 5: **Nez Perce Forest Fire Resources Allocated Budget**



- The Forest's preparedness budget request for 2002 was $3,542,000.
- The Forest received 95% most efficient level of funding,
- The Forest had seven personnel actions adding or promoting permanent seasonal firefighting positions. Seven new fire management apprentices were selected and trained.

Clear/Nez Fire Zone met with Fire Cooperators on a number of issues and programs, including the development county disaster plans, community protection, hazardous fuels treatment around communities, and on economic development strategies. The Clearwater District provided support to the Harpster community as they established a Volunteer Rural Fire Department.

Number of Fires: In 2002, we experienced lower than average fire starts across the Forest. This can be attributed to persistent dry air masses that brought fewer than normal lightning starts. Dry weather patterns and decreased number of lightning events have been our pattern since 1999. The Kelly Creek incident was the only fire that required the use of North Idaho Incident Management to suppress. Several short duration incidents on the Clear/Nez and IDL utilized a local Type III organization to manage the incident.

It was an especially active year nationally; Colorado, Arizona, and Oregon hosted the largest fires experienced in those states in recent history. The Clear/Nez Zone provided extensive support to the Southwest, Rocky Mountain, and Pacific Northwest areas during the spring and summer seasons. The fire season moved from the Southwest to Rocky Mountain and Eastern Great Basin and then to the Pacific Northwest. Our first crew dispatch was May 2 and the last crew out returned home on November 8 (a local assignment).

Figure 6: **Nez Perce Forest Fire Occurrence**

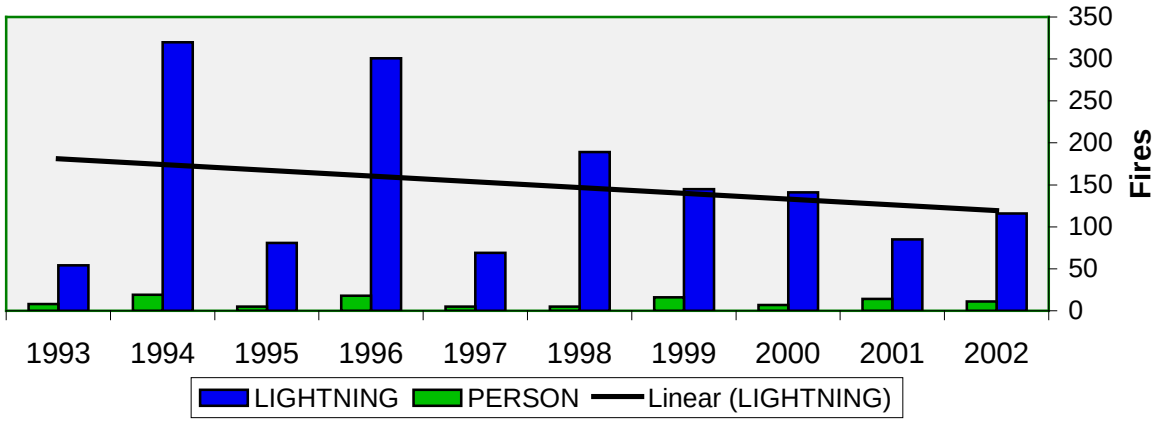


Figure 7: ***Wildfire Acres***

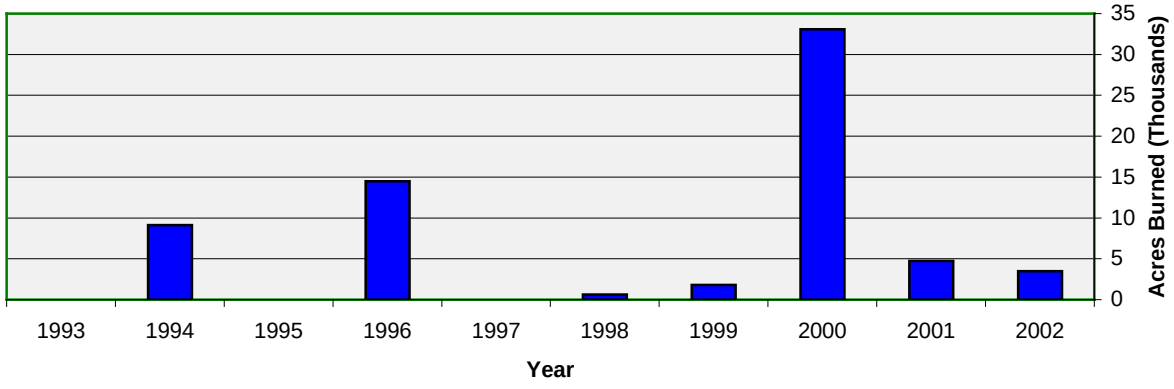
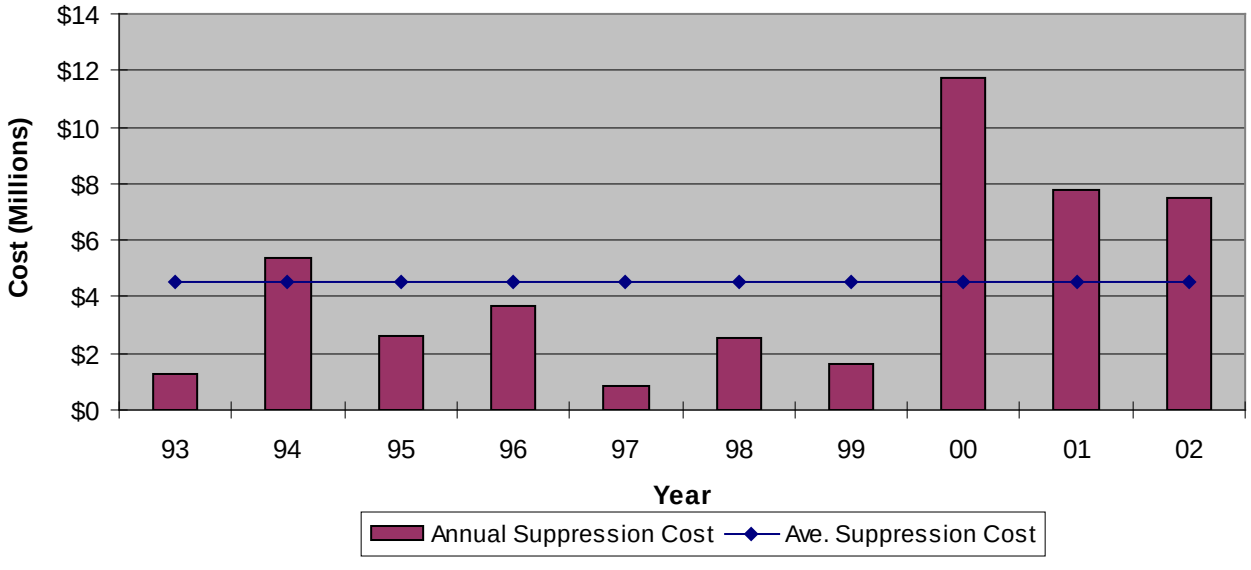
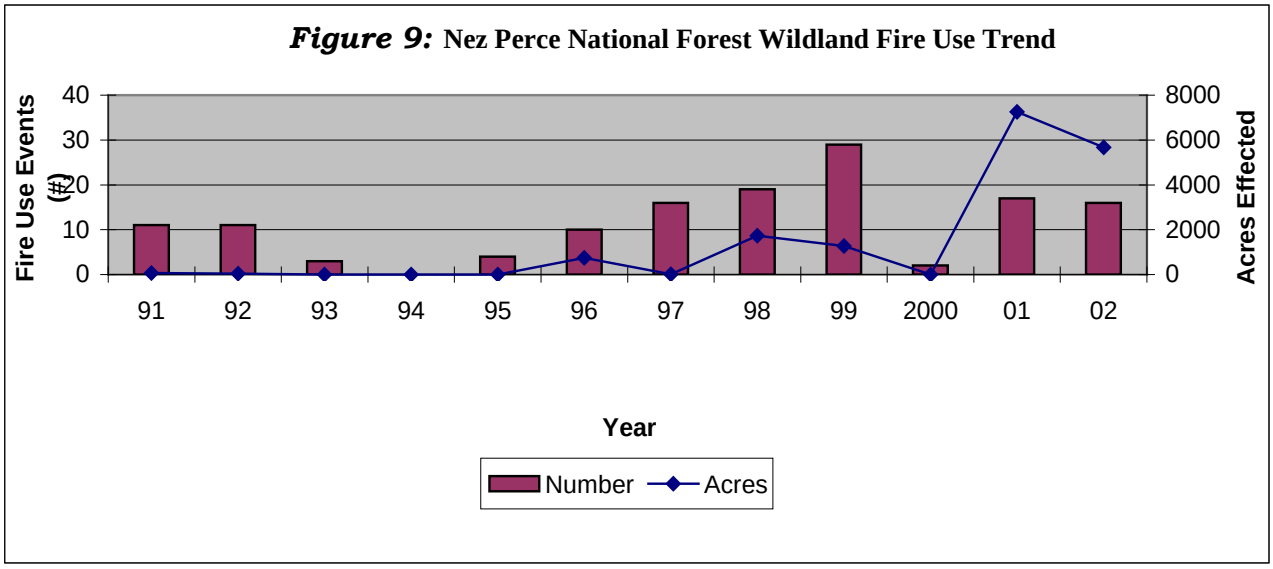


Figure 8: **Nez Perce Forest Fire Suppression Costs**



Fire suppression costs have significantly increased on the Nez Perce Forest. This is constant with the national trend of escalating fire suppression costs. The Clear/Nez Zone and partners mobilized 88 crews; 95 engines; and filled approximately 450 overhead positions.

Figure 9: **Nez Perce National Forest Wildland Fire Use Trend**



In cooperation with the Region, we contracted for a formal Air Attack platform; Houston Air filled the contract with an Aero Commander 500B. The ATGS position was staffed with a series of detailers. The Clearwater/Nez Perce Fire Zone Aviation and Fire Management Annual Report contains more information.

Prescribed Fire: Spring burning conditions were conducive to good accomplishment in the river breaks grass and brush fuels.

The projected outputs for activity fuel treatment and hazardous fuels treatment were 6,265 acres for the 1998 through 2007 period in the Forest Plan. The Nez Perce National Forest accomplished 12,240 acres of hazardous fuel treatment and 1080 acres of brush disposal treatment. This exceeded the expected Forest Plan outputs for fuels treatment. Our fuels treatments are expected to continue near the current level with a focus on Wildland Urban Interface treatments and ecosystem restoration in dry habitat type outside their range of natural variability. Year-end review of BD (trust fund) balances showed adequate funding available to complete all planned work. Both the Moose Creek and Salmon River District have completed all BD work and BD fund balances are zero.

The Ranger Districts reviewed several prescribed burn projects, including Elkhorn Jersey. The monitoring of these projects shows that they are meeting objectives and that sensitive resources are being protected. Each district is also reporting burned acres for wildfires, wildland fire use, and prescribed fire, and the percentage of riparian areas burned as part of the Programmatic BA for anadromous fish.

Wildland Fire Use: Within the three Nez Perce Forest Wildland Fire Use areas (Gospel Hump, Frank Church River of No Return, and Selway Bitterroot), 16 fires were managed for benefits, burning 5676 acres. The Wildland Fire Use program was constrained by high fire danger (National Preparedness Level 4 and 5 preclude new WFU events) and lack of support and suppression resources. District Fire Managers managed these events with a modest amount of outside support.
The Forest has been a leader in using lightning ignitions to capture fire benefits in fire dependent ecosystems. Wildland Fire Use for Resource Benefits has grown steadily over the past decade. Our

increasing experience with beneficial fire and line officers willingness to take risks, have combined to increase the acres positively effected by fire use. (See chart below).

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

Insects and Disease

1) What did we accomplish?

Insect and disease conditions on the Forest were monitored via aerial detection flights and field reconnaissance. This contributes to the historic conditions data set.

2) What outputs and/or work was planned that did not get accomplished?

None.

3) What management practices need to be changed based on monitoring results?

Monitoring results indicate the Forest is experiencing outbreaks of at least three insects that may require a shift in management priorities in order to protect and restore forest, wildlife, and aquatic resources. As this information is incorporated into watershed assessments, it will help identify specific needs.

4) What is the current resource condition and trend when compared to desired conditions?

Insects and diseases are an integral part of forest disturbance regimes and contribute to the makeup and structure of our forests. Current outbreak levels of Douglas-fir beetle and mountain pine beetle are above desired levels. Losses of whitebark pine to white pine blister rust and mountain pine beetle are far beyond desired conditions. Mortality of subalpine fir caused by the balsam wooly adelgid and the western balsam bark beetle are increasing and could become a larger concern in the future.

Forest Plan Item 7: Insect and Disease Activity

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: Annually

Variability that would initiate further evaluation*:* Significant increases in population or damage levels of insects or diseases.

Monitoring Results

Lodgepole Pine: Mountain pine beetles continued killing lodgepole pine over significant acreages in 2002. The mountain pine beetle outbreak has been active in lodgepole pine over the past 5 years and is concentrated around Elk City, including the Red, Crooked, and American river drainages. Additional mountain pine beetle mortality was noted in Tenmile and Newsome creeks. In aerial surveys conducted in 2002 over 1.2 million red lodgepole pine trees were mapped over 180,000 acres. Since 1999 an estimated 2.5 million lodgepole pine trees have been killed by mountain pine beetles in this area.

Dwarf mistletoe is frequently present in lodgepole pine forests on the Nez Perce NF. Although the parasitic plants can slow growth and, sometimes, kill severely infected trees, it is a minor consideration compared to

the current and potential mountain pine beetle impacts. The mountain pine beetle continues to reduce dwarf mistletoe populations on the Forest because dwarf mistletoe plants only survive on live hosts.

Grand-fir: Grand fir mortality attributed to the fir engrave beetle jumped significantly in 2002 over 2001 levels. In 2002 aerial surveys over 42,000 dead grand firs were mapped, up from just over 100 mapped in 2001 surveys. Fir engraver populations often rise precipitously in response to drought conditions, and are most commonly associated with root disease pockets. Root diseases, especially annosus root disease, are the most common cause of grand fir mortality and are a constant and significant disturbance factor in grand fir forests. They influence the composition and structure of many conifer forests on the Nez Perce Forest.

Hemlock looper defoliated grand fir and spruce trees over an area of approximately 28,000 acres around the Limber Luke area north of Elk City. Grand fir regeneration was most dramatically impacted, with some seedling and saplings more than 75% defoliated. We are uncertain if the defoliation will continue into 2003, or what the impact of this years defoliation will be. Some overstory grand fir trees may have been top killed, 2003 follow up surveys are planned.

Douglas-fir: The Forest Douglas-fir mortality rate remains high. Most of this mortality, in trees of all ages, can be directly attributed to annosus or armillaria root diseases. In addition to root disease, Douglas-fir bark beetles continued killing larger diameter Douglas-fir, often in association with root disease activity. Douglas-fir beetle mortality was most evident in the Fenn Ranger District, where root disease is especially severe in Douglas-fir. Scattered mortality was observed in the southern portion of the Island unit and along the Salmon River Breaks. Douglas-fir beetle mortality seems to be declining forest wide from a 20 year high experienced in 2000. The 2001 Douglas-fir beetle populations adjacent to the Burnt Flats fire were not detected in 2002 aerial surveys.

Dwarf mistletoe is a consideration in Douglas fir forests in some locations. Relatively dry ridge top sites with relic populations of large, old Douglas-fir are often heavily infected by this parasitic plant. Overall, 5-7% of the Nez Perce forested area has severe Douglas-fir dwarf mistletoe infestations.

Ponderosa Pine: Ponderosa pine mountain pine beetle and western pine beetle increased in 2002 over 2001 levels. Beetles preferentially target large diameter, old ponderosa pine, a unique Forest resource.

Subalpine Fir: 2002aerial detection surveys identified over 25,000 red subalpine fir. Most red trees were mapped near the Big Creek/Dixie Summit area east of the Gospel Hump Wilderness. Western balsam bark beetle (WBBB) caused most of this mortality. 2002 aerial surveys showed a sharp decline in the amount of WBBB killed trees over 2001 levels. Typically WBBB infestations are found in association with root diseases, so mortality in subalpine fir is likely a result of both agents. Armillaria and annosus root diseases are common and often a dominant factor in subalpine fir type forest development.

The balsam woolly adelgid (BWA), an exotic insect, is also impacting subalpine firs across the headwaters of American River River and Newsome Creek, and on Coldwater Ridge. BWA infests both subalpine and grand fir, and may kill larger diameter subalpine fir in as few as 3 years. The impact of this agent on the subalpine fir component in the Nez Perce NF has not yet been quantified, and Forest Health Protection Personnel recommend the establishment of permanent impact plots.

Engleman Spruce: Engelmann Spruce and grand fir, were defoliated by the hemlock looper over 28,000 acres near Limber Luke. The spruce seemed to be most heavily defoliated with some regeneration completely defoliated and the tops of many overstory trees completely stripped of foliage. No hemlock was present in the defoliated area. It is uncertain if defoliation will continue in 2003 or this year's defoliation impacts. Some overstory spruce trees may have been top killed, 2003 follow up surveys are planned.

White Pine/ Whitebark Pine: Mountain pine beetle and white pine blister rust continue killing white pine and whitebark pine trees on the forest. Continued activity by this insect and pathogen are expected into the foreseeable future and will continue reducing already low populations of these species.

Dogwood: The Selway River drainage Pacific dogwood coastal disjunct population continues declining. Mortality has been high and surviving plants are in poor condition. Suspected causal agents include anthracnose, other canker-causing fungi, and encroaching tree cover causing excessive shading. Established monitoring plots are checked periodically as funding permits. No change in the downward trend is evident.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results

- Subalpine fir mortality, affecting forest composition, structure, and density, could have long-term effects on lynx habitat.
- Continued tree losses from root disease and bark beetle infestations may reduce canopy levels to the point that watersheds are affected. Dead trees concentrations are certainly a risk factor for Wildland fire ignition, especially over the next 10 years as dead trees fall to the ground. The Red River drainage is at risk to fire ignitions and potentially causing damage in a watershed system already below standard.
- Large, old ponderosa pines, a unique resource, are at risk from bark beetles and wildland fire with increased fuel loads.
- Whitebark pine forests continue disappearing due to the combined effects of blister rust, mountain pine beetle, and a lack of regeneration opportunities.

Subbasin and watershed assessments recognized these disturbance processes and their role in the system. Project analyses and vegetation treatments address them as they occur. Silvicultural prescriptions incorporate a further step-down of the broad ecosystem scope to individual stands. Annual insect and disease monitoring will continue contributing to our understanding of disturbance trends.

Facilities

1) What did we accomplish?

- Drinking water was monitored monthly for bacteriological contamination at all 13 operating potable water systems managed directly by the Forest Service. All required drinking water chemical testing was performed. Safe drinking water was provided at all systems where potable water is available.
- Wastewater discharges were monitored at all three sewage treatment plants. Effluent at all three locations met water quality requirements.
- 2002 construction work included the Moose Creek District visitor information/office building.
- Routine maintenance assured that all buildings in use met basic structural and public health standards.
- Radon and asbestos monitoring and mitigation continued. There is still some friable asbestos in a few buildings, but radon and asbestos are not current health hazards at any Forest Service residence.

2) What outputs and/or work was planned that did not get accomplished?

- Funding levels preclude fully maintaining the entire transportation system. Maintenance needs continue to be evaluated and prioritized on both an annual basis and as weather events dictate.
- Due to problems with aging water collection and distribution systems along the Selway River, four small campground water systems remain closed. Alternatives for providing potable water are being evaluated.

3) What management practices need to be changed based on monitoring results?

Buildings and administrative sites do not have Forest Plan monitoring requirements. When problems are discovered during inspections or monitoring we correct them as funding permits. This practice seems to work well, therefore no changes are being considered.

4) What is the current condition and trend of the resource when compared to the desired condition?

Currently, the Nez Perce National Forest buildings, water systems, wastewater systems, and administrative sites are in acceptable condition, with few exceptions. However, as buildings and systems age, they require more upkeep each year. Since maintenance funding has not increased with inflation, it becomes a greater challenge each year to maintain structural, health, and safety standards. The Forest Service is addressing this issue nationally and it is hoped that maintenance funding will increase in the future. The Forest is evaluating needs and costs on an ongoing basis to assure that we are not maintaining unneeded facilities. Opportunities for ongoing cost savings are continually pursued.

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

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: 5 years (Last reported in FY 1999, next report will be in FY 2004).

Variability that 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.

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Forest Plan Item 2l: Adequacy of Transportation Facilities to Meet Resource Objective and User Needs

Measurement Frequency: Continuous

Reporting Period: 5 years (Last reported in the FY 1999 Monitoring Report, next report will be in the FY 2004 Monitoring Report).

Variability that would initiate further evaluation: If public opinion is significantly against the Nez Perce National Forest access management or the program shows serious negative resource impacts.

Minerals

1) What did we accomplish?

Forest personnel were able to perform basic administration, minimize unnecessary surface disturbances, and inspect unauthorized mining operations.

2) What outputs and/or work was planned that did not get accomplished?

- Due to the complexities of consultation under ESA, a lot of time and effort was put into processing plans and less effort into inspection of small, ongoing operations.

- There were delays in the processing of plans of operations and notices of intent due to great analysis needs and the need for input from fisheries specialists.

3) What management practices need to be changed based on monitoring results?

No evaluation was completed therefore no changes in management practices are indicated at this time.

4) What is the current resource condition and trend compared to desired conditions?

The current trend is toward the desired conditions. The Forest was able to keep up with basic administration of mining activities. A shrinking workforce and the increasing complexity of issues (such as consultation under the Endangered Species Act) combined with rights under the 1872 mining law, contribute to difficulties in meeting regulation timeframes for processing new plans, adequately inspecting ongoing operations, and assuring that bonds are revised or released on a regular basis.

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Forest Plan Item 2m: Adequacy of Mining Operating Plans and Reclamation bonds

Frequency of Measurement: Annually

Reporting Period: 5 years (Last reported in the FY 1999, next report will be in FY 2004).

Variability that would initiate further evaluation: Operating plans that need to be updated, modified; bonds that need to be increased, decreased, or return; or case files that can be closed out.

Economics

Forest Plan Item 3: Cost of Implementing Resource Management Prescriptions

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: Annually

Variability that 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 future program is reviewed and updated annually. Future program planning no longer attempts 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 1 displays activities and outputs for fiscal years 2000, 2001, and 2002.
Table 2 displays budget allocations and actual expenditures for fiscal years 2000, 2001, and 2002.
Table 3 displays projected FY 2003annual costs. Dollars have been adjusted to constant FY 2002 values.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results: Past monitoring has shown that funding received has consistently been less than full Forest Plan funding levels. This situation is likely to 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.

Table 19: **Nez Perce Forest Implementation Funding FY 1988-2003 (millions of dollars))**

Fiscal Year	Expenditures	Planned
1988	17.8	
1989	19.6	
1990	20.6	
1991	20.4	
1992	18.4	
1993	20.9	
1994	21.9	
1995	24.9	
1996	20.0	
1997	17.1	
1998	18.3	
1999	17.9	
2000	16.3	
2001	19.8	
2002	20.4	
2003		13.3

The previous table displays funding levels expended by the Forest over the past 15 years and the project funding level for FY 2003. Dollars for all years have been adjusted to 2002 dollars. The effects of this funding level can be seen in the sections of this report describing individual resource areas.

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Forest Plan Item 3a: Forest Resource Derived Revenues

Measurement Frequency: Annually
Reporting Period: 10 years

Variability that 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 non-market benefits were used in the Forest Plan to determine total price 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 Revenues: The differences between projected Forest Plan timber revenues and actual timber revenues in fiscal years 1988-1993 were due to two factors. First, the Forest did not experience stumpage values as high as predicted in the Forest Plan. Second, timber harvest acres in fiscal years 1988-1993 were considerably lower than the predicted average annual harvest displayed in the Forest Plan.
In addition, the revenue decrease from fiscal years 1990-1991 was largely a result of the use of different accounting methods. In particular, established purchaser credits for roads were used in FY 1990, while charged purchaser credits for roads were used in FY 1991.

The revenue increase from FY 1991 to FY 1994 was due to the higher volume of timber harvested, higher prices, and an evening out of the accounting method used for purchaser credit for roads that had been changed in the previous year.

The revenue decrease from FY 1994 to FY 2002 was due to fewer acres being harvested. The revenue increase in FY 1998, an exception during this period, was due to the extremely high value of the timber in a single sale.

Before 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 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.

Range Revenues: Difference 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 (AUM) 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 FY 2002, grazing fees were $1.43 per head month for cattle and horses, and $0.29 per head month for sheep. In FY 2002, 18,523 cattle and horse head months and 4,778 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.

Table 20: **Nez Perce Forest Timber and Range Revenues** (figures have been converted to 2002 dollars)

Fiscal Year	Timber	Range
Forest Plan Projection	17,689,198	58,000
1988	6,277,530	47,529
1989	9,768,049	51,224
1990	8,762,218	53,445
1991	5,753,353	46,309
1992	9,607,248	45,253
1993	10,462,641	45,370
1994	18,423,414	48,529
1995	6,138,538	30,098
1996	6,826,970	29,752
1997	3,080,238	30,365
1998	3,197,409	28,361
1999	2,723,399	27,128
2000	3,155,227	27,895
2001	2,608,013	37,281
2002	1,817,300	27,869

Effects To Others

Public Involvement

1) What did we accomplish?

General: Forest public involvement opportunities abounded in FY 2002, specifically during the General Management Review (GMR); Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) meetings and fieldtrips; Ecosystem Analysis at the Watershed Scale (EAWS) meetings, field trips and website; and Red River Watershed public information strategies. There were numerous public involvement efforts related to other specific projects. Techniques ranged from media ads to traditional scoping letters, public information meetings and public comment forums. There were project-related displays, field trips, open houses and news releases.

General Management Review: The Nez Perce General Management Review was held June 24-28, 2002. This Regional Office and Washington Office review included field trips to each unit and discussions with key contacts such as weed coordinators, tribal members, and congressional representatives. Results of this review are available at the Grangeville Forest Supervisor's Office.

Planning

North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee (RAC): The Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests RAC was selected in 2001 to recommend forest management projects to the Forest Service under the Craig-Wyden Act of 2000. It was a good year for project accomplishments and public involvement activities supported by the RAC. The RAC is a diverse group involved in a successful, collaborative process making good decisions.

Seven meetings were throughout the year, as well as a field trip to the Red River Ranger District on July 25, 2002. Public forums followed each meeting, entertaining public comments. Congressional representatives were present at each RAC meeting.

Several projects were proposed for RAC funding. Four projects were completed: Clearwater Bridge Armoring, Idaho County Weed Control, Palouse Weed Control, and Sourdough Road Improvement. The Red River project (Title II funds) was contracted and is ongoing. The Gold Lake Creek project was started.

Ecosystem Analysis at the Watershed Scale (EAWS): The EAWS Core Interdisciplinary Team came together in May 2002, to assess conditions in the Red River Watershed. The EAWS Team hosted interdisciplinary field trips twice a month during field season. National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), and the Nez Perce Tribe representatives joined the team on several field trips.

Red River Watershed: The Red River drainage public information strategy guided development of a series of informative articles on planning efforts and management actions. Public information plans for FY 2003 include articles on Red River Watershed issues, such as elk, aquatics, and tribal involvement.

A "Current Status of Project Work in Red River" (an information paper) is updated monthly and distributed to county commissioners, congressional representatives, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the IDFG.

Quarterly NEPA Report: We continued publishing and improving the Quarterly NEPA Report. This publication, mailed four times a year to nearly 300 individuals, includes information about proposed projects. Current and previous quarterly reports can be accessed at our homepage at: www.fed.us/r1/nezperce.

Meadow Face Stewardship Pilot Project: Nez Perce National Forest employee met monthly with the local independent group, Stewards of the Nez Perce, through completion and dissemination of the Final Environmental Impact Statement in June 2002. Approximately 25 to 30 individuals were actively involved as Stewards, and the meetings provided a forum for information exchange related to forest projects.

Information and Education: Public involvement is stimulated throughout the year with many events and programs. During FY 2002 the Forest participated in: National Wildflower Week, Grangeville Border Days, Lewiston Nez Perce County Fair, Cottonwood Idaho County Fair, Spokane Bighorn Sportsman Show, and the Boise Horse Council.

The Forest hosted: fishing derbies at the Clearwater, Red River, and Moose Creek Ranger Districts; 7th Grade field trips; 5th-6th grade Fish Creek campout; Water Awareness Week; and Reach-A-Teacher – Touch the World. Forest employees regularly present information to local schools.

The highly successful Passport in Time (PIT) program continues providing volunteer opportunities to assist professional archaeologists and historians with significant heritage resource projects.

Fire: The Clearwater/Nez Perce Fire Zone has excellent cooperation between fire protection agencies, and private citizens and companies. The Zone's efforts, including rapid reporting, quick suppression, thorough mop-up, and great logistical support, limited the acres of private and public lands burned and in several cases saved structures from burning.

2) What outputs and/or work was planned that did not get accomplished?

All goals and objectives were met.

3) What management practices need to be changed based on monitoring results?

A public involvement plan should be developed for each project. Plans should include objectives, identify potentially affected or interested public, and focus on techniques that will match the needs of the public.

4) What are the current resource conditions and trends compared to desired conditions?

The trend in public involvement is moving toward a collaborative approach. This approach allows all interests to be represented as annual priority projects are planned or implemented.

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

Measurement Frequency: Annually

Reporting Period: Annually

Variability that 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 that 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.

Monitoring Results: Most Idaho communities and agencies are affected by activities and management direction of nearby national forests. One of the most obvious effects in FY 2002 was the payment in lieu of taxes (the 25 percent funds) generated from sale or lease of resources, permits, and other income generated on national forest lands. Other effects include 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 that may be attributable to activities on or a condition of national forest lands.

Fiscal year 2002 Nez Perce Forest management effected adjacent communities and agencies. Fiscal year 2002 Nez Perce Forest payments made to Idaho County from timber sales, grazing fees, and other income totaled $2,492,743. Payments to Idaho County from all national forests were $4,966,548; which includes the Bitterroot Forest ($520,136), Payette Forest ($901,935), Salmon Forest ($74,051), Wallowa-Whitman Forest ($1,989), and Clearwater Forest ($975,694). The majority of funds from the Nez Perce Forest were from selling timber. Table 21 displays Nez Perce Forest payments made to Idaho County since 1988.

Table 21: **Payments (all receipts) made to Idaho County from the Nez Perce Forest (1988-2002)**

Fiscal Year	NOMINAL DOLLARS	Constant 2002 Dollars
1988	$ 995,846	$ 1,389,504
1989	$ 1,243,278	$ 1,670,593
1990	$ 1,276,546	$ 1,652,999
1991	$ 1,303,797	$ 1,625,053
1992	$ 2,042,981	$ 2,481,405
1993	$ 2,197,978	$ 2,607,461
1994	$ 3,872,891	$ 4,497,201
1995	$ 1,217,808	$ 1,384,161
1996	$ 1,576,746	$ 1,756,968
1997	$ 714,852	$ 781,333
1998	$ 1,461,044	$ 1,574,567
1999	$ 666,237	$ 708,077
2000	$ 775,556	$ 808,672
2001	$ 2,473,396	$ 2,525,337
2002	$ 2,492,743	$ 2,492,743

Primary lumber production facilities in the local area (Idaho, Lewis, and Nez Perce counties) depend upon national forest logs. Viable sawmills maintain a two to three year supply of raw material under contract at all times. Table 22 shows the Nez Perce Forest uncut volume remaining under contract compared to the volume sold and volume harvested each year since 1987. Obviously, the supply of raw material from the Forest has declined since 1991. The effect likely could be added dependence on other Bureau of Land Management, State of Idaho, Nez Perce Tribal, or private timberlands for raw materials.

Table 22: Remaining Volume Under Contract; Volume Harvested, and Chargeable Volume Sold

Fiscal Year	Timber Volume Harvested (MMBF)	Timber Volume Sold (MMBF)	Volume Under Contract (MMBF)
1987	89.1	92.6	235.9
1988	72.9	108.5	290.0
1989	99.5	77.6	243.6
1990	93.4	83.2	220.0
1991	72.8	102.6	255.0
1992	81.4	15.6	189.8
1993	69.2	42.4	162.1
1994	89.9	13.0	75.2
1995	38.8	13.9	60.7
1996	38.3	28.1	54.1
1997	19.4	21.6	63.3
1998	29.8	22.4	55.9
1999	14.7	13.8	64.9
2000	16.0	2.3	54.9
2001	18.9	10.2	42.8
2002	13.5	20.4	52.9

Total FY 2002 expenditures were $27,051,114 with $15,899,000 coming from FY 2002 allotments and the remainder coming from prior year funds. Expenditures included funds based on annual appropriations to the Nez Perce Forest by Congress, trust fund limitations, State and Private funding, emergency (flood, disaster, wildfire, and federal highway) allocations, and reimbursed funds. Beside salaries, rent, and other operational expenses, revenues were distributed to local economies through formal contracts ($954,801 awarded), small purchases ($2,047,572), and fire related purchases ($3,695,689 to individuals).

The cooperative effort called the Clearwater Basin Elk Habitat Initiative has continued to pool USFS resources and involvement by state, federal, and private entities to help improve elk management through habitat manipulation in a cooperative effort to restore local elk populations.

Many Nez Perce Forest rivers and streams flow onto adjacent ownerships. Forest watershed management activities may affect water quantity and quality off the Forest.

The Future of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-393) and the North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee:

Public Law 106-393 (sometimes called "Payments to the States") ends rural communities' historic dependence on timber sale receipts to finance school and road construction. The Act gives counties the option of continuing to receive payments under the 25 Percent Fund Act or electing to receive their share of the average of the three highest 25 percent payments made to the state during the period of fiscal year 1986 through fiscal year 1999 (the full payment amount).

Idaho County elected to receive the full payment amount (average of the three highest 25 percent payments). Because the county was slated to receive more than $100,000 between 15-20 percent of the funds received were to be set aside and used for forest restoration, maintenance, or stewardship projects under Title II of the Act, county projects under Title III, or both.

The Act called for the Secretary of Agriculture to appoint Resource Advisory Committees to provide the Forest Service recommendations on funds allocation under Title II of the Act for national forest projects.

The North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee (NCIRAC) covers five counties: Idaho, Clearwater, Latah, Nezperce, and Lewis. It includes most of the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests. The Committee consists of 15 members and 3 replacement members, appointed for a 3-year term. The committee had 3 types or groups, with five members each:

- Industry and labor interests,
- Environmental, dispersed recreation, and archeological interests, or
- Elected officials, Tribal officials, school officials, and citizens at large.

The NCIRAC received over $6.5 million in FY 2002. Over $700,000 was allocated for projects on national forest lands under Title II of the Act.

Evaluation of Monitoring Results: Decreases in the timber quantity offered and sold is the most obvious effect of present Forest management on adjacent communities and agencies.

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

Measurement Frequency: Annually
Reporting Period: Annually

Variability that would initiate further evaluation*:* Unacceptable effects determined by the Forest Interdisciplinary Team.

Monitoring Results

□ **Bonneville Power Administration (BPA):**

The Forest continued work with BPA funds, along with several agencies and landowners, to improve fish habitat, stream channel stability, and riparian conditions. Projects include channel restoration along several miles of Red River located on State and private lands, continued restoration with the Nez Perce Tribe in McComas Meadows, and sediment trap maintenance below Haysfork glory hole.

□ **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

The BLM and Forest were involved in cooperative cadastral surveys. There is an annual coordination meeting. Activities coordinated include timber, range, mining, recreation, and water monitoring.

The Forest and Cottonwood BLM are covered under a Master Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement and Statewide Annual Operating Plan. One of the plans key features is the operation of the Grangeville Interagency Dispatch Center.

□ **Federal Highway Administration (FWHA)**

The Forest works with the Federal Highway Administration in matters related to the Forest highway program and Emergency Repair – Federally Owned (ERFO) program. Currently, the Forest and the Administration are involved in a proposed 10.2 mile Salmon Road reconstruction project.

□ **Idaho Conservation Data Center (ICDC)**

The Forest and ICDC cooperatively develop conservation strategies and conduct presence/distribution surveys for sensitive species. The Center provides rare species sighting data queries for biological evaluation. Each year the Center provides the Forest with a copy of the State Rare Element Occurrence database. The database simplifies data gathering and analysis required for NEPA analysis.

□ **Idaho County and Highway Districts**

The Forest, Idaho County and the Highway Districts cooperate on road maintenance on road sections covered by agreements. Idaho County provides funding support for the snowmobile trail grooming program and plows snow for park, ski, and snowmobile programs.

□ **Idaho County Weed Control**

The Forest works in close cooperating with Idaho County Weed Control in the management of noxious weeds and other exotic plants. The Forest and Idaho County Weed Control share resources and skills in implementing an integrated weed program across Idaho County and work together to improve the coordination and integration of weed programs

□ **Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)**

In 2002, the Forest coordinated with the South Fork Clearwater Watershed Advisory Group (WAG). This group was formed by the State of Idaho primarily to coordinate activities pertaining to Water Quality Limited Streams and the Comprehensive State Water Plan. The Forest represented federal land management agencies on the WAG and provided technical support.

□ **Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR)**

Under Stream Channel Alteration Act provisions, 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. The IDWR initiated Comprehensive State Water Planning in the South Fork Clearwater River subbasin, under a 2002 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Forest Service.

□ **Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)**

The IDFG works with the Forest in collaborative and resource advocacy roles. Their involvement in FY 2002 included:

- Elk mortality research and incidental wildlife information gathering;
- Information and support of Forest threatened, endangered, and sensitive species assessment issues;
- Mountain goats transplants into wilderness lands to help maintain population viability;
- Participation in sensitive species surveys, Neotropical migrant survey/monitoring, and non-game management planning;
- Input to updating bighorn sheep populations and elk population recruitment monitoring information;
- Continuation of South Fork Clearwater Subbasin interagency bull trout inventory work; and
- High mountain lake baseline fish populations and physical lake characteristics inventory surveys.

The IDFG activities in big game monitoring, research, collaboration in developing species conservation assessments, as well as the ICDC information provide support and help eliminate duplicate work.

□ **Idaho Department of Lands (IDL)**

An agreement between the State of Idaho and federal land management agencies was rewritten in 1996. One objective was to make the exchange of resources easier. This agreement remains in effect.

The Forest and IDL are covered under a Master Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement and 2002 Statewide Annual Operating Plan.

□ **Idaho Department of Transportation (DOT)**

The Forest works with DOT on State Highway 14 management. The Forest's programmatic road maintenance requirements are being incorporated into all cooperative road agreements.

□ **Idaho Division of Aeronautics**

The Division periodically inspects Forest backcountry airstrips and remains involved in new backcountry airstrip proposals and management.

□ **Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board**

Through a formal agreement, the Forest Service and the Board coordinate the permit and enforcement process for outfitters and guides providing public services on national forest lands.

□ **Idaho Soil Conservation District (ISCD)**

The ISCD is the lead agency for the Red River Wildlife Management Area restoration project. The project is located on lands administered by the IDFG. The Forest provided technical and administrative assistance on the project in 2002.

□ **Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)**

The SHPO monitors the Forest's compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The 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.

□ **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - NOAA** (National Marine Fisheries -NMFS)

The NOAA Fisheries provided Endangered Species Act, Section 7, informal consultation support and/or concurrence on biological assessments for Forest listed and proposed fishes. Additionally, NOAA Fisheries provided technical assistance and support for developing several conservation assessments and strategies for Forest species. The Forest works with NOAA in the Level 1 consultation process.

□ **Nez Perce Tribe**

The Nez Perce Forest was one of five forests that signed a 1998 MOU with the Nez Perce Tribe. The MOU exempts tribal members from paying campground fees at developed campgrounds and from stay limits when the Tribal 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 deal with any protests by tribal or non-tribal members. In addition, Forest wolf populations monitoring and wolf recovery management activities are conducted by the Tribe's wolf recovery program.

□ **Nez Perce Tribe/Biocontrol Center**

Nez Perce National Forest entered into a Participating Agreement with Nez Perce Tribe to collect and distribute insects for noxious weed control.

□ **Nez Perce Tribe/Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission**

The Nez Perce Tribe assisted the Forest with cultural awareness, recruitment, and training activities. This assistance helped diversify the workforce and accomplish resource management objectives. The Nez Perce Tribe is sponsoring a young horseman's program called **Appaloosa**. This group concentrates on learning packing skills through an outfitted educational trail ride program. The Forest supports this activity by teaching packing skills with the Forest and the 9 Mile Pack Train teams.

□ **State of Montana and State of Idaho (Air Quality)**

The Forest joined the Montana/North Idaho Airshed Group in 1990. This group's objectives include: 1) Minimizing or preventing smoke impacts in North Idaho and Western Montana and 2) Meeting national ambient air quality standards when conducting prescribed burning. The Group was effective in meeting national ambient air quality standards in 2002. The Forest follows daily smoke management advisories provided by the monitoring unit administrator and meteorologist.

□ **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE)**

The COE was consulted on wetland and stream channel projects per Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

□ **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)**

The FWS provided informal consultation support and/or concurrence on biological assessments under the Endangered Species Act on biological assessments for Forest listed and proposed species. Additionally, the FWS provided technical assistance and support in developing conservation assessments and strategies for several Forest species. The FWS provides a statewide information repository related to wolf, peregrine falcon, bald eagle, grizzly bear, Canada lynx, and bull trout recovery efforts. The FWS project approval processes required by law can complicate or temporarily delay Forest decisions and project implementation.

□ **University of Idaho (U of I)**

The Forest and U of I cooperated on weed management projects involving vegetation and biocontrol-agent monitoring; weed-infested site revegetation; and other research opportunities such as McComas Meadows.

Other Monitoring

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

Nez Perce National Forest
Accessibility for People with Disabilities

1) What did we accomplish?

The Forest has plans on file to renovate a family residence at the Fenn Ranger Station for accessibility. Work has begun on conceptual plans for renovating a bunkhouse and a family residence for accessibility at each ranger station.

The new accessible office and visitor center at Fenn Ranger Station is on the Northern Region's priority list for capital construction funding for FY 2003. The funds for this project have been released and the construction contract has been awarded for this facility. Construction should begin in the spring of 2003. When the building is completed, we will be able to provide accessible visitor services and barrier free employment at all our administrative sites.

A new accessible warehouse at the Grangeville Air Center was built. We are finishing the inside of this building. The dirt/gravel walkways to the building from the parking area provide difficult access. This building will be completed as funding becomes available. A ramp constructed at the Slate Creek Ranger Station provides access to the museum. The sidewalk portion will be completed in the spring of 2003.

2) What outputs and/or work was planned that did not get accomplished?

We did not get as far as we had hoped with the administrative site accessibility surveys and transition plans. National deferred maintenance reporting requirements drained budgets and limited available time. This will continue for at least two years. However, all administrative site surveys and transition plans will be completed as soon as time permits.

The sidewalk providing access at the Slate Creek Ranger Station museum was not completed; it will be completed after archeological concerns are addressed. We received concurrence from the Idaho State Historical Preservation Office and construction will occur in FY 03.

3) What practices need to be changed based on monitoring results?

As Forest positions become vacant, we need to actively recruit persons with disabilities.

4) What are current resource conditions and trends compared to desired conditions?

Forest-wide, three recreation sites (including a fishing area) are accessible at the **Easy** level, another four sites are accessible at the **Moderate** level, and twenty sites are accessible at the **Difficult** level. Red River District coordinates with Idaho Department of Fish and Game to provide a hunting program for mobility impaired hunters. The goal is to provide accessible opportunities throughout the entire spectrum of Forest recreation. We are making progress, but much remains to be done.

The Forest headquarters office and all district offices (except Fenn Ranger Station to be accessible in 2003) are accessible to everyone. The goal is to provide accessible offices and residences at all administrative sites. The trend is positive.

Introduction: 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 participating 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 Forest facilities for accessibility to people with disabilities. In June 1991, a survey was initiated using a new Forest Service accessibility survey tool designed to determine Forest campgrounds/picnic area accessibility. A special emphasis program was created in 1992 to address issues concerning people with disabilities. During the initial facilities monitoring stages we realized the need for TDD (Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf) to provide better customer service. TTDs have been installed in all district offices and the Forest Headquarters. The TTD phone numbers are published in local telephone directories.

***Table 23*: General Descriptions of Accessibility Levels** (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 management to provide 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 potions of sites. These are typically in: semi-primitive settings; at sites managed to provide 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

Table 24: **Mobility Accessibility by Accessibility Levels for Forest Facilities**

Facility	Easy/Accessible	Moderate	Difficult
Fish Creek Pavilion 1994 (100 People)	Up to 75 people	Up to 100 people	0
Fish Creek Campground (11 Sites)	9 campsites	2 campsites	0
Blackerby Picnic Area (2 Sites)	0	2 picnic sites	0
Castle Creek Campground (9 Sites)	0	8 campsites	0
South Fork Campground (9 Sites)	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 (32 Sites)	0	5 campsites	10 campsites
Spring Bar Campground (17 Sites)	0	6 campsites	3 campsites
Allison Creek Picnic Area (2 Sites)	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 Cr. 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			Accessible at this level*
5-Mile Pond			Accessible at this level*
Nez Perce Forest Headquarters Office	Accessible at this level		
Slate Creek Ranger District Office	Accessible at this level		
Clearwater Ranger District Office	Accessible at this level		
Red River Ranger District Office	Accessible at this level		
Elk City Ranger District Office	Accessible at this level		
Moose Creek Ranger District Office	Not Accessible at this level	Not Accessible at this level	Not Accessible at this level
Moose Creek Visitor's Center	Accessible at this level		

*Depending on weather

Evaluation of Monitoring Results

The Forest Headquarters and all district offices (except the Moose Creek Ranger District building at Fenn Ranger Station) are accessible to everyone. Planning has begun for providing accessible services at the historic Fenn Ranger Station. A preliminary design was completed in 1996 for a new building to provide accessible offices and visitor services. That project is the top priority for FY 2003 Capital Improvement funding on the Forest. The construction contract has been awarded and construction should begin in spring 2003.

A triplex apartment building, our first fully accessible employee residences, was completed at the Elk City Ranger Station in 1996. An accessible family housing duplex is planned at the Elk City Ranger Station and is the Forest's third priority for FY 2003 Capital Improvement funding. Work has begun on

conceptual plans for renovating a bunkhouse and a family residence for accessibility at each ranger station. Renovation will be undertaken when a need arises or when funding becomes available.

Heritage Resources

1) What did we accomplish?

- During 2002, 8 new cultural properties/sites were discovered and recorded on the Forest.
- 7,487 acres were inventoried for cultural resources.
- In addition to the new sites recorded, 68 previously recorded sites were revisited or monitored.

2) What outputs and/or work was planned that did not get accomplished?

A schedule based on 1-5 year intervals needs to be established for monitoring of all National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible heritage resources. This was not accomplished in 2002.

An increase in the Heritage budget is needed in order to effectively monitor the recorded NRHP eligible cultural resource sites on the Forest. The current budget does not allow for detailed recording of site changes during monitoring. Under the current practices sites may be monitored, but the time and money needed for the proper documentation of changes in the sites' condition are not provided.

3) What practices need to be changed based on monitoring results?

None

4) What is the current resource condition and trend compared to desired conditions?

Currently cultural resource sites are minimally evaluated for their eligibility to the NRHP, mostly through surface inspection. In the future a more thorough evaluation-testing program comprised of formal subsurface excavation units needs to be implemented in order to formally determine a site's National Register status/eligibility.

Lands and Special Uses

1) What did we accomplish?

- Maintained and monitored INFRA, the Special Use Data System
- Administered the "Open Season" concept for special use permits and applications
- Reviewed and prioritized special use status, permits and applications
- Maintained Forest Boundary
- Processed permit applications

2) What outputs and/or work was planned that did not get accomplished?

- Renewed expired Special Use Permits and processed permit applications
- The Forest did not address unauthorized uses.

3) What practices need to be changed based on monitoring results?

- Additional funding and staffing are needed to address the number of unperfected right-of-ways to public lands in a timely manner. Additional funding and staffing is also needed to process permit renewals and applications.

- The Forest needs to prioritize unauthorized uses and prosecute cases under the statutes and title. County RS-2477 validations continue making Forest access management a problem.

4) What is the current resource condition and trend when compared to desired conditions?

- The Forest's progress in dealing with unperfected right-of-ways is slow.
- The Forest is unable to address both expired permits and permit applications in a timely manner.

Environmental Analysis Accomplishments Related to Timber

The following table and discussion summarize Forest Supervisor authority environmental analysis accomplishments between FY 1988 and FY 2002. Beginning with FY 1993, 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)
1988	3	3	24,400	1,662	9.0	27.0
1989	8	15	164,480	5,908	6.8	102.1
1990	2	7	38,296	4,677	6.0	42.1
1991	3	11	81,964	6,164	8.0	88.5
1992	1	1	4,034	351	10.4	10.4
1993	5	5	25,716	2,461	4.1	20.5
1994	5	35	11,230	319	0.04	1.3
1995	9	11	6,730	386	0.4	4.1
1996	8	13	11,480	1,160	0.9	12.1
1997	4	6	45,775	4,509	3.26	22.3
1998	3	3	17,075	4,675	4.44	13.3
1999	2	2	4,553	362	1.3	2.6
2000	1	1	18,000	340	1.6	1.6
2001	1	1	9,750	1,055	9.5	9.5
2002	1	1	16,000	3,440	9.5	9.5
15 year average	3.6	7.6	31,824	2,497	0.65	24.4
Total	54	115	477,361	37,469	N/A	366.4

*Volume figures may be slightly different than other figures in this report due to rounding.

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. During FY 2002, analysis was ongoing for three timber output related documents, not depicted on the above table.

Noxious Weed Management

1) What did we accomplish?

- Forest personnel treated noxious weeds
- Insects were released across for control of spotted knapweed
- Weed treatment continued in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness.
- The Forest continued implementing weed free forage requirements and washing of off-road logging equipment as prevention practices.
- The Forest continued integrating the noxious weed program with coordinated weed management efforts in the Salmon and Clearwater drainages.
- Forest personnel along with other federal and state agencies implemented an interagency Weed Management Strategy for Idaho.
- The Forest, University of Idaho, Forest Health Protection Group, and Nez Perce Tribe Bio-control Center monitored biocontrol agents for yellow starthistle in the Salmon and Clearwater basins. The work included distribution, release and monitoring of approved insects. Release site management incorporated vegetation monitoring and risk assessments.

2) What outputs and/or work was planned that did not get accomplished?

- Treated noxious weed acres are under 10% of the total infestations found on the Forest.
- Weed management off the Forest across all lands is far below the level necessary to slow the spread of many weeds. This forces weed managers to strongly prioritize management efforts.
- The coordinated implementation of prevention practices statewide (all lands) is poorly developed, causing ineffective and inconsistent results across a broad regional scale.

3) What practices need to be changed based on monitoring results?

- More emphasis and time needs to be placed on coordinating practices and treatment across all ownerships.
- A long-term early alert system needs to be developed to track the introduction and spread new invasive exotic plants into the region and state.
- Additional funds are needed to manage and treat invasive exotic plants at a biologically significant level.
- Noxious weed management needs to be integrated into vegetation restoration strategies that are being implemented across all property ownerships.

4) What are the current resource conditions and trends compared to desired conditions?

- Many noxious weeds and invasive exotics continue to spread across the Forest and on other lands. Low elevation grasslands, conifer savannas, and recently disturbed sites are at greatest risk for invasion by exotic plants.
- Transportation corridors (trails and roads) and river systems continue to be the main pathway of weed spread.
- Broad scale partnerships resulted in more coordinated weed management across all properties.

Noxious Weeds Introduction

Noxious weeds and invasive exotic plants are a rising concern on federal lands. Invasive exotics can invade healthy ecosystems, displace native vegetation, and affect species diversity and wildlife habitat. Widespread infestations may lead to soil erosion, reduce quality of recreation for visitors, and threaten the long-term viability of rare plants. Invasive exotics are a major threat to our native biodiversity.

The Nez Perce National Forest continues to implement a proactive, integrated management program for noxious weeds. The program includes education/awareness; inventory;; treatment, prevention/early detection and monitoring. The program is integrated with Idaho County Weed control and is based on a strong prioritization process. Noxious weed management priorities for the Forest are to:

- Prevent establishment of potential invaders;
- Eradicate new invading noxious weeds;
- Control satellite infestations including treatment of transportation corridors and concentrated human activity areas; and
- Contain large established infestations.

Noxious weeds of greatest concern on the Forest continue to be dyer's woad; rush skeletonweed; yellow starthistle; diffuse knapweed; Russian knapweed; toothed spurge; leafy spurge; sulfur cinquefoil; spotted knapweed; Scotch thistle; orange and yellow hawkweed; and common crupina.

In Idaho, the Forest Service requires certified weed seed free or weed free hay and feed products be used, as part of a statewide prevention program. The Forest continues to work with Idaho County to ensure a local certified products are available. Timber sale and equipment contracts require machinery and equipment are washed to prevent the spread of weed seed.

During the FY 2002 season, district and Forest personnel worked with user groups and interested parties to identify and highlight the risks of invasive exotic plants. District personnel led field trips to review infestation and risk levels in sensitive areas such as wilderness and along Wild and Scenic rivers. Road signs on main portals alert users of certified hay requirements.

Each district has a noxious weed coordinator who directs inventory, control, and monitoring activities. Noxious weeds are routinely addressed in analyses for ground disturbing or habitat altering activities. Weed susceptibility was modeled in watershed and subbasin assessments.

A variety of tools are used to treat weeds. In FY 2002, weeds were treated by releasing biological control agents, manual pulling, mowing, seeding disturbed sites, and herbicides. Volunteer groups were active in manual spotted knapweed control along the beaches of the Wild and Scenic sections of the Salmon River. Bio-control insects were released to treat yellow starthistle and spotted knapweed. The treatments are consistent with the estimated level outlined in the Forest Plan.

The Forest helps manage the Salmon River Weed Management Area. The management area is 500,000 acres in the lower Salmon River Canyon. A collaborative plan is being implemented by Idaho County, private landowners, and federal/state land management agencies. The intent of the weed management area is to bring together those responsible for weed management in the Salmon River drainage, develop common management objectives, facilitate effective treatment, and coordinate efforts along logical geographic boundaries with similar land types, use patterns, and problem species. The result of this effort is the integration of the Forest weed program with 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 Clearwater basin. A strategic Clearwater basin weed management plan has been finalized. The plan requires cooperators to realign their individual weed management priorities to accomplish basin priorities and to ensure work is coordinated across basin. The Forest Clearwater drainage program will become increasingly integrated with county, state, and other federal agency efforts.

The Forest was involved in implementing weed treatments in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. An environmental impact statement and weed treatment decision were completed in summer 1999. Treatment began in FY 2000.

The Forest, working with the University of Idaho, Forest Health Protection Group, and the Nez Perce Tribe Bio-control Center, is monitoring bio-control agents for yellow starthistle in the Salmon and Clearwater basins. This work includes the distribution, release, and monitoring of five different insects that have been approved for release. It also incorporates vegetation monitoring as part of the management of the release sites.

Sensitive Plants

1) What did we accomplish?

- Forest personnel continued to survey Sensitive plants in high probability habitats. Surveys were conducted within planned project areas.
- New occurrences of sensitive plants were found and documented.
- Monitoring continued on Puzzling Halimolobos, broad-fruit mariposa and Cluster lady-slipper.
- Biological Assessments (BA) and Biological Evaluations (BE) continue to be completed for proposed projects.
- Rare plants are being integrated into landscape and planning area assessments.

2) What outputs and/or work was planned that did not get accomplished?

- Monitoring data over the past few years has not been summarized.
- Suitable habitat inventory outside project areas continues to be low priority.

3) What practices need to be changed based on monitoring results?

Rare plants need to be more integrated into project prescriptions and design. Many projects could be designed to improve sensitive plant habitats along with accomplishing other vegetation objectives.

4) What are the current resource conditions and trends compared to desired conditions?

It appears at this time that the known populations of sensitive plants are secure. The probability of population viability loss over the short-term is considered low. Monitoring suggests there is significant yearly variation in population levels. This variation appears to be a common trait among herbaceous plants.

Air Resources

1) What did we accomplish?

A key component of the Region 1 Air Resource Monitoring Program is the monitoring of lake chemistry, which is quite reactive to atmospheric processes. In FY 2001, Phase III monitoring of wilderness lakes to determine trends in acid deposition and other atmospheric related changes to lake ecosystems were done. Shasta Lake in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness has stable to slight upward trends in pH, ANC, and conductivity.

No active sampling of air quality was done on the Forest. However, Sula Peak, to the east of the Forest, monitored fine mass concentration of air that passed over the Forest.

The Forest supported air quality forecasting through daily balloon launches during the fall burn period, and through coordinating smoke management reporting for North Idaho Airsheds.

2) What outputs and/or work was planned that did not get accomplished?

Currently the Forest has completed all planned monitoring of air resources.

3) What practices need to be changed based on monitoring results?

A particulate sampler should be installed as funds become available in the interior of the Forest to gather data to identify impacts to communities.

4) What are the current resource conditions and trends compared to desired conditions?

Currently the air quality on the Forest is good and monitoring does not indicate any significant deterioration from desired condition.

A national initiative to substantial increase hazardous fuels treatments in short fire return interval ecosystems on federal land would produce a corresponding increase in smoke and particulate matter, if the only treatment is prescribed fire. Future hazardous fuels project proposals should include tradeoff analysis of prescribed fire v. mechanical treatments to assess the smoke effects. Prescribed fire operations below 4000 msl were occasionally constrained by the Airshed coordinator during the fall burn period.

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. The North Idaho Summer Elk Model was developed to assess impacts to summer elk habitat effectiveness: Given wholesale changes in forest management philosophy and implementation which began in the mid-1990's, the continued need for and use of the current "elk guidelines model" as a tool to guide elk habitat changes will likely be evaluated during the Forest Plan Revision process scheduled to start in FY 2003.

a. **Status:** A team of biologists from IDFG, Nez Perce and Clearwater Forests, and the Nez Perce Tribe conducted a technical review and proposed edits/improvements to the existing Guidelines for Evaluating and Managing Summer elk habitat in Northern Idaho (Leege 1984). A draft proposal titled, "Interagency Guidelines for Evaluating and Managing Elk Habitats and Populations in Central Idaho" (Servheen, 1997; Wildlife Bulletin No. 11) was prepared. An on-forest interdisciplinary review concluded a significant Forest Plan amendment may be required prior to forest-wide application of the 1997 updated model. Forest Plan Revision may address the need to improve the 1984 assessment tool.

2. **Moose winter range conservation and other questions that previously needed to be addressed have diminished in importance in recent years:**

2002 Update: With dramatic shifts in forest management philosophy as well as other modifications in both the extent and methodologies of timber harvesting used on the Nez Perce National Forest in recent years, most of the questions and concerns pertaining to maintenance and protection of old age grand fir/yew winter habitats have mostly disappeared. Clearcutting and burning of late seral grand fir/Pacific yew stands is no longer considered part of current forest management. Due to these dramatic changes, the driving need to answer these questions has fallen in priority and no research is currently pending to address these issues at this time.

3. **The consequences of repeated burning, and of maintenance of Forest ecosystems in prolonged seral brush stages, once needed to be evaluated.**

2002 Update: Dramatic shifts in forest management philosophy and recognition of soil maintenance needs as well as the practices of managing to emulate "natural disturbance regimes" and "historical ranges of variability" have begun to replace outdated approaches aimed at maintaining seral brush stages on a given site indefinitely. For this reason, the practice of repeated intensive burning for such purposes is used less and as a result, levels of concern over this practice are declining. No research is pending at this time.

4. **Determining the relative effectiveness of fertilization compared to burning for improving wildlife habitat was previously needed.**

2002 Update: Fertilization costs versus those of prescription burning are comparatively high. Dramatic reductions in appropriated funds and other revenue sources have placed greater emphasis on land treatment cost-effectiveness. For this reason, the practicality of using fertilization as an economical approach to habitat improvement has virtually been eliminated. No research is planned or pending at this time.

5. **Determine and define corridor attributes needed to link old growth stands**.

2002 Update: Recent dramatic changes in forest management philosophy and practices have essentially eliminated the application of broad-scale clear-cut and burn treatments that tend to isolate forest stands and fragment landscape conditions. Riparian habitat conservation area implementation helps reduce habitat fragmentation. Current philosophies consider maintaining and increasing late-seral and old growth acreage and patch sizes. Old forest habitat arrangement, including greater consideration of connectivity and habitat continuity, are being addressed. In lower elevation forest types such as ponderosa pine and dry Douglas fir, prescription fire application is promoted to help protect late-seral and old growth patches from high-intensity, stand-replacing wildfire. Wildfire is becoming recognized as a serious threat than present or future timber harvesting to old growth habitat integrity in some forest types. As a result, the need to link old growth stands is becoming a declining issue in forest management. No research is planned or pending at the local scale at this time.

6. **Natural stand dynamics and disturbance regimes 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, as well as factors affecting riparian and stream function including shading, bank stability, and large woody debris inputs. 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 and some new federally listed species (both plant and animal) are poorly understood.** Research is needed to better define critical habitat components for these species and risks posed by changing Forest management emphases and natural disturbances that may be outside the range of natural variability.

   Accomplishment Status: Minimal research on habitat relationships of sensitive and federally listed plants has occurred over the last few years. Progress is slow because the research must be conducted across multiple forests, agencies and dispersed across an ever-increasing number of sensitive and imperiled species. Idaho Conservation Data Center has begun modeling potential habitat for a few rare plants in Idaho. There is opportunity in the near future for National Forests to fund work on habitat relationships of rare plants.

8. **Watershed and reach response to natural fire disturbance and rates of recovery** are not well described in watershed models currently in use. Research is needed to describe debris torrent and water yield effects on channel attributes, and watershed recovery rates in terms of temperature, sediment and substrate condition, and channel morphology.

   2002 update: These remain critical unmet research needs. Forest level studies have been in place since the 1988 fires and provide some information. Rocky Mountain Research Station has proposed studies for FY 2002-2003 to address this need.

9. **There is a lack of published data concerning the effects of operating a suction dredge in streams occupied by threatened, endangered, and sensitive aquatic species.**

10. **An accurate way of quantifying the short-term and long-term effects of road decommissioning on sediment production needs to be developed.**

    2002 update: Research coordinated by the Rocky Mountain Research Station has been proposed in Horse Creek to evaluate the effects of road decommissioning on sediment production, channel morphology, water yield and stream macro invertebrate populations. NEPA analysis was completed in 2001 and decommissioning is planned for 2003, with sampling through 2005 or 2006. Other road decommissioning projects are being monitored at the forest level for changes in stream cross-sections and substrate above and below restored stream crossings.

Forest Plan Amendments

Amending the Nez Perce National Forest Plan is a normal process necessary to improve our ability to care for the land. The need to amend the Plan was anticipated at the outset. Twenty-seven amendments are listed and summarized below. No amendments were made to the Forest Plan in FY 2002. Copies of amendments are available at the Nez Perce National Forest's Supervisor's Office.

Amendment #1

Amendment 1 clarifies our intent to protect potential Wild and Scenic Rivers by providing more detailed forest-wide standards. Proposed management standards changes 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 Amendment 1 is exactly the same as the original amendment except 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

Amendment 2 clarifies the definition and management of Forest motorized recreation. (10/88)

Amendment #3

Amendment 3 modifies standards relating to minerals, wildlife, fish, and riparian area management listed in Chapter II (Forest-wide Management Direction) and Chapter III (Management Area Direction). The minerals section of Chapter VI (Summary of the Analysis of the Management Situation) the glossary and monitoring items are clarified. This amendment does 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. Concerns were addressed in a settlement agreement and a proposal for correcting the Plan. (3/89)

Amendment #4

Amendment 4 modifies standards listed in Chapter II (Forest-wide 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.

Management standard changes and clarification resulted from environmental analysis in the Wing Creek-Twentymile area. During the Wing Creek-Twentymile Draft Environmental Impact Statement comment period, concern was expressed on conflicting Forest Plan language pertaining to visual resource management. Concerns were analyzed and a proposal was developed to correct the Plan. (3/89)

Amendment #5

Amendment 5 corrects errors in Appendix A, Forest Fishery/Water Quality Direction by Prescription Watershed. Some of the changes are planning errors made in identifying sediment yield and entry frequency guidelines. Site-specific analysis and stream surveys revealed some streams were incorrectly identified as not supporting anadromous fish. (3/89)

Amendment #6

Amendment 6 corrects errors in Chapter II (Forest-wide Management Direction), Chapter III (Management Area Direction), Chapter V (Implementation), Chapter VII (Glossary), and Appendix A (Fishery/Water Quality Direction). This amendment provides clarification that will not alter the multiple use goals and objectives as identified in the Forest Plan. Typographical errors were identified. Amendment 6 corrects those errors.

Appendix A describes current fishery habitat quality in West Fork Red River (Prescription Watershed 17060305-04-18) as 50 percent of potential habitat quality. This watershed is roadless and no management activities are known to have occurred in the watershed or the stream. The stream is in a pristine, natural condition and is appropriately displayed at 100 percent of potential habitat quality. (7/89)

Amendment #7

Amendment 7 clarifies language found in the following sections: Chapter II (Forest-wide Management Direction), Chapter V (Implementation), Chapter VI (Summary of the Analysis of the Management Situation), Appendix O (Forest Plan Monitoring).

Management standard changes and clarification were the result of negotiations with the Nez Perce Indian Tribe on their appeal of the Nez Perce National Forest Plan. A settlement agreement and proposal for correcting the Plan addressed the appellant's concerns. The specific items modified provide clarification and do not alter the multiple use goals and objectives as identified in the Forest Plan. (1/90)

Amendment #8

Amendment #8 clarifies language in Appendix O (Forest Plan Monitoring Requirements). Clarification focuses on fish and wildlife monitoring. Specifically, the changes relate to forage production, wildlife population trends, and fisheries/watershed monitoring station costs. The clarifications do not alter the multiple use goals and objectives as identified in the Forest Plan. (1/89)

Amendments #9 and #10

These amendments address management practices specific to the Cove and Mallard Timber Sales as described in the Final Environmental Impact Statements. 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. The amendments allow clear-cutting and sanitation/salvage harvesting within Management Areas 12 and 17. The amendments do not apply to other timber sales on the Forest. (11/90)

Amendment #11

Amendment 11 made Forest-wide monitoring program adjustments and updates fish/water quality objectives in Appendix A of the Plan. In the FY 1988 Nez Perce National Forest Monitoring and Evaluation Report, the Forest Interdisciplinary Monitoring Team recommended changes to make the monitoring program more comprehensive. Specific changes in the monitoring program and the fish/water quality objectives are listed in the Amendment No 11Decision Memo. (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. 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 regarding animal damage control. The amendment does not authorize any specific projects. (4/91)

Amendment #14

Amendment 14 (3/91) partitioned the allowable sale quantity (ASQ) by separately showing the ASQ coming from inventoried Roadless areas verses 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 decision in October 1991, thereby vacating and voiding Amendment 14 of the Nez Perce Forest 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 removing plumbing fixtures from the wilderness. The amendment modifies the implementation schedule. (6/91)

Amendment #16

Amendment 16 adopts programmatic changes in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness management direction. The changes should enable wilderness managers to better meet intent of the Wilderness Act. (2/92)

Amendment #17

Amendment 17 allows salvage timber harvest within Management Area 20 (old growth habitat) following the Scott Fire. Analysis showed that salvage harvest would help speed 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 addressing outfitter and guide operations in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. (7/94)

Amendment #19

Amendment 19 adds more specific vegetation management direction 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 pack and saddle stock management. (2/95) [Note: Based on negotiations with appellants, the decision was rescinded in May 1995. A new amendment/decision, providing additional clarification, is expected in FY 95.]

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 Hungry-Mill Final Environmental Impact Statement analysis. The amendment changed the summer elk habitat potential objective from 50 percent to 25 percent on 2,838 acres within the Hungry-Mill analysis area. (3/97)

Amendment #22

This was a project specific amendment based on the Berg Timber Sale Environmental Analysis analysis. The amendment allows timber harvest within Management Area 20 (old-growth habitat) to improve and maintain the long-term sustainability of the ponderosa pine communities in areas of the Berg Timber Sale. The amendment is valid for the timber sale contract life 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 Hungry-Mill Final Environmental Impact Statement analysis. The amendment updated Forest Plan Appendix A information for several watersheds in the 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 (5/98).**

Amendment #25

This was a project specific amendment based on the Middle Fork Final Environmental Impact statement analysis. The amendment updated Forest Plan Appendix A information for three watersheds in the 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 Middle Fork Final Environmental Impact Statement analysis. The amendment allows timber harvest within Management Area 20 (old-growth habitat) to improve and maintain long-term sustainability of the ponderosa pine community in unit F Middle Fork Timber Sale. The amendment is valid for the timber sale contract and does not apply to future actions in this area or elsewhere on the Forest. (10/97)

Amendment #27

This was a project specific amendment based on the East Meadow Creek Prescribed Fire Project analysis. The project needed allowance for short term, human-caused, fire related sediment increases in the stream. The amendment changes fish habitat and water quality objectives listed in Appendix A for 8 watersheds. The amendment is valid for the life of the prescribed fire project and does not apply to future actions in this area or elsewhere on the Forest. (2/99)

Authors/Editors

The following individuals authored the FY 2002 Nez Perce Forest Monitoring and Evaluation Report.

Name	Area of Expertise
Nick Gerhardt	Hydrology and Watershed
Laura Smith	Public Involvement
Mike McGee	Timber
Leonard Lake	Range, Botany, and Noxious Weeds
Randall Walker	Insects, and Disease
Dave Green	Economics
Lois Geary	Budget and Finance
Randy Borniger, Laurie Doman	Recreation, Wilderness, Trails
John Fantini	Rivers
Steve Lucas	Heritage Resources
Ester Hutchison	Land Management Planning
Steve Blair	Wildlife
Scott Russell	Fisheries
Joe Bonn	Facilities
Paul Christensen	Disabled Persons Access
Daryl Mullinix	Lands and Special Uses

The Forest Supervisor, Forest Staff Officers and District Rangers reviewed the report.

Name	Area of Responsibility
Steve Williams	Acting Forest Supervisor
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Kenneth Castro	Staff Officer: Fire Zone
Phil Jahn	Staff Officer: Watershed, Ecology, Biology, & Heritage
Ken Stump	Deputy Fire Staff Officer
Jack Carlson	District Ranger, Salmon River Ranger District
Darcy Pederson	District Ranger, Clearwater Ranger District
Joe Hudson	District Ranger, Moose Creek Ranger District
Terry Nevius	District Ranger, Red River Ranger District

Approval

I reviewed the Nez Perce National Forest FY 2002 annual Forest Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Report prepared by the Forest Interdisciplinary Team. I am satisfied the Monitoring and Evaluation effort meets to the fullest extent possible, the intent of the Forest Plan (Chapter V) and 36 CFR 219. Interdisciplinary and Leadership Team recommendations on proposed Forest Plan changes and will notify the Forest Plan Revision Team. This report is approved:

STEVE E. WILLIAMS **DATE**
Acting Forest Supervisor

APPENDIX

STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS IDENTIFIED IN PRIOR YEARS

The action items shown below were identified between Fiscal Years 1988-1998. Resolution of action items and their status is summarized below. Action items with an "incomplete" or "ongoing" status will be included in next year's report. Future reports will not repeat "Complete" or "resolved" action items.

Action Items Related to TIMBER

Item #1	Continue to maintain expertise 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 Year Action Item:	Fiscal Year 1995
Current Status:	Inactive
Discussion:	Remeasurement of permanent growth plots has been centralized in the Region. One crew remeasures these plots Region-wide. This allows them to be highly skilled in this work. The Forest is still involved in maintaining the plots and the folders holding the plot records.

Action Items Related to WILDLIFE

Item #1	The Forest needs to determine how fire or silvicultural prescriptions might be used to protect/restore low elevation pine or pine/Douglas fir old growth from stand replacing fire.
Fiscal Year Action Item:	Fiscal Year 1993
Current Status:	Ongoing
Discussion:	Fuels reduction using prescribed fire and/or mechanical thinning with follow-up monitoring is an accepted management practice. More proposals (i.e. Meadow Face Stewardship Project) are putting this into practice. Evaluating project results will require several years. Monitoring habitat condition suitability and species responses to habitat changes will be done in the long term to validate or modify assumptions.
Item #2	Concise snag identification and marking directions to timber marking crews must be included in marking guidelines. Consistent timber sale contract clauses (which do not contradict each other) are needed to help retain snags and trees for replacement snags.
Fiscal Year Action Item identified:	Fiscal Year 1993
Current Status:	Ongoing; natural processes are assisting in issue resolution
Discussion:	Issue resolution requires attention and involvement by biologists and timber markers. Safety hazard reduction direction outlines the safety and risk analysis when designating and retaining snags: (File 6700, Hazard Trees and Reserve Tree Management dated Oct. 1, 2002; signed by Lynn Roberts for Bradley E. Powell, Regional Forester). Better understanding of natural snag recruitment rates and forest pest and disease activity are helping restore snag levels.

Action Items Related to RECREATION	
Item #1	Develop evaluation criteria for off-highway vehicle (OHV) use impacts. Determine acceptable transportation and land base impacts from OHV use.
Fiscal Year Action Item:	Fiscal Years 1989-1991, 1994, and 1995
Current Status:	Not completed
Discussion:	Lack of funding and the low priority assigned to this task hinder progress. Specific instances of OHV impacts are handled on a case-by-case basis. Recreation, particularly motorized recreation, continues to be used as a principle mitigator for timber harvest. This is having significant effects on the long-term potential for Forest recreation use and opportunities.
Item #2	Implement the national system called Infrastructure, which will be used to improve the gathering and documentation of visitor use information.
Fiscal Year Action Item:	Fiscal Year 1994 and 1995.
Current Status:	Ongoing
Discussion:	The Nez Perce Forest has replaced the Recreation Infrastructure with Meaningful Measures. This is an ongoing database showing what is needed to maintain the Forest's recreation and trail program.
Item #3	Review and revise recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) forest-wide, incorporate ROS analysis into all environmental analyses and develop a mechanism for updating ROS acreages in the database.
Fiscal Year Action Item:	Fiscal Year 1994 and 1995.
Current Status:	Incomplete
Discussion:	The review, revision, and acreage updating of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) forest-wide was submitted as a projected proposal for ecosystem management funding. It was not funded. Current environmental analyses include ROS discussions/assessments.
Item #4	Establish a system of measurements for more precise monitoring of sites eligible to the National Register of Historic Places.
Fiscal Year Action Item:	Fiscal Year 1994 and 1995.
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 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 replacing substandard signs in the wilderness.
Fiscal Year Action Item:	Fiscal Year 1994.
Current Status:	Ongoing
Discussion:	The Forest continues replacing substandard wilderness signs as funding levels allow.
Item #6	The Middle Fork of the Clearwater River Management Plan needs to be updated and administration of scenic easements needs more emphasis.
Fiscal Year Action Item:	Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995.
Current Status:	Incomplete
Discussion:	The Middle Fork Clearwater River Management Plan continues to need an update. 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 Year Action Item:	Fiscal Year 1995.
Current Status:	Ongoing
Discussion:	Work continues in this area as funding allows.

Action Items Related to FISHERIES	
Item #1	South Fork of Clear Creek fish and water quality objectives should be consistent with objectives for similar Chinook habitat on the Forest. Additionally, the Clear Creek drainage contains one-half stream miles without an assigned water quality objective.
Fiscal Year Action Item:	Fiscal Year 1990
Current Status:	Incomplete
Discussion:	This situation will most likely be corrected through the Forest Plan revision process. It is unlikely that an amendment will be made before the revised Plan is complete.
Item #2	Fish habitat monitoring needs to be adequately funded, staffed, and given a higher priority for accomplishment.
Fiscal Year Action Item:	Fiscal Years 1993 and 1994
Current Status:	Ongoing
Discussion:	The Forest completed a workforce analysis in FY 2000. Work is being prioritized and matched with existing and projected skills and funding.

Action Items Related to WATER	
Item #1	Improve the quality of some placer mining operations. Achieving this is limited by lack of specific mandatory "best management practices".
Fiscal Year Action Item:	Fiscal Year 1994
Current Status:	Ongoing
Discussion:	Work continues as funding and personnel permit.
Item #2	Development of and improvements in the NEZSED model and it's reliability of observed sediment yield estimates are needed to improve future land management decisions.
Fiscal Year Action Item:	Fiscal Year 1994
Current Status:	Ongoing
Discussion:	The Forest is involved in efforts at the regional and national levels to assess and update sediment-modeling technology. Model testing is ongoing.
Item #3	To maintain soil productivity, water quality, and viable native species populations, increased emphasis needs to be given to accomplishing integrated landscape and site-specific assessments.
Fiscal Year Action Item:	Fiscal Years 1993 and 1994
Current Status:	Completed
Discussion:	Three Ecosystem Analysis at the Watershed Scale are completed: Slate Creek, Newsome Creek, and Meadow Face. The Red River assessment has begun. Two of three Landscape Assessments are completed: South Fork Clearwater River and Selway River. The Salmon River assessment is ongoing.
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 Year Action Item:	Fiscal Year 1995
Current Status:	Ongoing
Discussion:	A restoration plan has been developed and implementation is ongoing in cooperation with the Nez Perce Tribe.

References

The following citations are available at the Nez Perce National Forest Headquarters:

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