

FY2006 Monitoring Evaluation Report White River National Forest

The annual monitoring and evaluation report is a requirement under 36 CFR 219.6 for national forests and grasslands. The report and associated activities, data, and subsequent reports help evaluate the effectiveness of forest goals and objectives set forth in forest plans. These reports serve several purposes including:

- Documenting monitoring and evaluation accomplishments
- Providing an assessment of the current state of the forest or grassland
- Providing a mechanism for gathering all the monitoring activity occurring across forest lands
- Providing adaptive management feedback to responsible officials of any needed changes to Land and Resource Management Plans or adjustments to management actions

Reporting elements are based on the Monitoring Strategy outlined in the White River National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan – 2002 Revision, as amended (*LRMP*). Frequency of reporting is listed as annually, every two years, or every five years. Thus far the White River National Forest (WRNF) has produced an annual report for fiscal years 2004 and 2005. This report is for fiscal year 2006.

Fiscal year 2007 will be the forest's five year benchmark. The five year report will be more comprehensive will contain not only inventory and monitoring accomplishments, but also reflect on trends for the past five years, summarize overall accomplishments, illustrate forest management effectiveness, demonstrate success or failures for reaching goals and objectives, and recommend any potential changes necessary to the *LRMP*.

Effective monitoring helps to show what is working or not working in the land management arena. Monitoring lets forest staff and the public know whether desired conditions are being met for the land. Based on findings and changed conditions forest staff may decide to keep current management practices (where they are working) or change management practices (where desired conditions are not being met). Another consideration is to examine the *LRMP* as changed conditions, new goals, desired conditions, and monitoring elements may have precipitated since the original signing of the *LRMP*. This helps to keep the *LRMP* a current and effective tool for land management.

Status of Forest Plan

- The Forest Plan was signed in June of 2002.
- Amendment 1 was signed in March of 2005 – Lynx and Water standard and guideline updates
- Amendment 2 was signed in January of 2006 – Alpine and Inventoried Roadless standard and guideline updates
- Amendment 3 was signed in March of 2006 – MIS List Revision
- 3 Errata documents have been issued for minor corrections and updates

All of these documents are available on the White River National Forest internet website http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/whiteriver/projects/forest_plan/index.shtml

Monitoring Strategy and History

Chapter 4 of the Forest Plan for the White River National Forest outlines the purpose of monitoring, the techniques used, and the actual monitoring strategy including elements to be monitored. This section is hereby incorporated by reference and will not be repeated here.

Status of Monitoring Reports

Annual Plans

None for FY2003

Annual Report for FY2004

Annual Report for FY2005

The Fiscal Year 2006 Report

The FY2006 annual report will focus on those elements that are to be reported annually according to Frequency of Reporting as outlined in the Monitoring Strategy in Chapter 4 of the Forest Plan.

ANNUAL REPORTING ELEMENTS

The following is a summary of the annual reporting elements from Chapter 4 of the Forest Plan Monitoring Strategy. The majority of the reporting elements are scheduled for a frequency of every five years. These will be documented in the FY2007 LRMP Five Year Monitoring Report.

EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING

T&E

To what extent are NFS lands and their management contributing to recovery and viability of Threatened and Endangered (T&E) species?

Wildlife

The WRNF continues to implement direction from the Forest Plan to benefit T&E species across the forest. This includes implementation of standards and guidelines for the management of lynx habitat, and surveys for lynx, bald eagles, Mexican spotted owl, and Penland alpine fen mustard. All projects are analyzed for potential impacts to T&E species and biological assessments are prepared documenting those impacts.

The WRNF biologists have initiated a series of snowshoe hare pellet plots to document snowshoe hare habitat use. Several of these transects are “paired plots” designed to document the effects of management activities on hare populations.

Salvage logging operations in spruce-fir and lodgepole pine stands are designed to protect the understory in spruce-fir and hasten the regeneration of lodgepole pine. These management actions will protect and more rapidly restore quality lynx habitat in these forested stands.

Mexican spotted owl surveys were initiated in FY06 to determine if the areas identified during mapping exercises in FY05 as potential habitat supported suitable habitat. Many of the primary habitat areas identified in FY05 were determined to be unsuitable as owl habitat due to the volume of the noise produced by the streams in the drainages and the traffic noise from Interstate Highway 70. Other areas within the FY05 identified potential habitat areas will be surveyed in FY07.

A bald eagle pair was found to have displaced an osprey pair that has historically nested on the WRNF. This pair of eagles defended the territory around the historic osprey nest throughout the nesting season, but did not actively nest. This is typical of eagle behavior when setting up a new territory.

Survey efforts for Penland alpine fen mustard located the known population just south of the WRNF. The geographic extent of this previously known population was somewhat expanded during this survey effort.

Aquatics

In FY2006 we consulted with US Fish and Wildlife Service on all activities that deplete water in the Colorado River to assess impacts to Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker, humpback chub, and bonytail, which occur greater than fifty miles downstream of the WRNF.

To what extent are NFS lands and their management contributing to the viability of recently delisted species?

Wildlife

In FY06, the WRNF continued to inventory known peregrine falcon nesting locations to determine occupancy and productivity of this recently delisted species. This species is included on the R2 Sensitive Species list and is assessed in project level biological evaluations for the potential impacts of forest activities. Based on preliminary data, this

species appears to be increasing on the forest with good reproduction. At least one new aerie was documented in 2006 and historic aeries showed good occupancy rates and productivity.

Ecosystem Health

To what extent are desired vegetation/soils conditions on rangelands being met?

A considerable amount of rangeland monitoring occurred on the White River NF in 2006. We monitored and evaluated 25 allotments using a variety of methods including Parker three step, cover frequency, ocular reconnaissance, photo points, rangeland health assessments and noxious weed inventories. Some of this information has been incorporated into the TERRA database. Noxious Weed inventories have been entered into the GIS and Terra databases. A GIS layer has been created for some of the rangeland transects and monitoring locations. 2210 project files contain all of the site specific monitoring data collected during that period. An overwhelming majority of the information indicates that rangeland vegetation and soils conditions are at or moving toward desired conditions as identified in either the FP or site specific decisions. The exception to this is in the area of noxious weeds. Noxious weeds, especially yellow toadflax is increasing at an alarming rate.

What are the effects of vehicle use off roads?

The Forest Plan does not allow for summer off road vehicular use. Use however is illegally occurring. The Draft Travel Management Plan was released in FY2006 and displayed over 1000 miles of unauthorized routes (some trails) in question. ATV use has increased, especially during hunting season and though most adhere to where there appears to be a road, many travel off road. Many dispersed recreation sites go beyond the 300 foot limitation as well. Motorcycling, mostly local use, is also going off road and trail especially in urban interface areas such as Edwards/Piney, southern part of Dillon, and the Roaring Fork Valley areas. Decisions will be made in the Travel Management Plan as to what the authorized system will be. Meanwhile the only reference is the 1985 travel plan. Once in place an aggressive decommissioning, signing, and enforcement program (though some is being done now) can be implemented.

A concerted effort has begun on educating the public. The forest by putting in kiosks, utilizing the press, and by having a presence (credit has to go to the field staff, both seasonal and permanent), and law enforcement all have been contributing to educating the public on the regulations.

Scientific and Technical Services

To what extent has the effectiveness of scientific, developmental, and technical information delivered to domestic and international interests been improved?

The Forest Service made improvements to its web connection and pages in FY2006. They began to standardize how information was to be displayed to help customers. The WRNF is using the web page to relay information to people. The WRNF was one of the first national forests to pilot an interactive map for the Travel Management Plan draft.

Advancements and coordination for the web however do need to be improved. More updated information should be posted more regularly. The Forest Service began the process to study competitive sourcing web services. Also the USDA might standardize all agency web sites. Therefore it has been difficult to commit staff and resources to a long-term approach for the web.

Geographical Information Systems are improving, software changes in FY2006 were being promoted that would occur in FY2007 changing how data is presented and making it easier for users.

Database updates moved to a web based system. Database information is being updated when mandated and necessary, others are lacking in upkeep.

There was a transition in Public Relations staff in FY2006 and successful relationship building with press corps, congressional staffers, and others occurred during this year.

Effective Public Service

To what extent has the safety and economy of Forest Service roads, trails and facilities, and operations improved?

In FY2006 a program was started to place new kiosks at key locations to post travel management and other recreation information. Implementation of the facility master plan began and 7 wells were closed in, other water systems were closed, removed leaking toilets and installed 8 toilets. The facility master plan for the WRNF is a comprehensive look at all facilities. The document evaluated what facilities should remain and of those, what improvements are needed. The document also made recommendations for which facilities should be sold or removed.

The Recreation Strategy matrix was finalized and approved. The Recreation Strategy is an internal document that provides direction for recreation managers on where different activities will be emphasized and what management techniques will be used to provide for those activities. The Thousand Trails contract was renewed. Several miles of roads and trails were maintained or improved (see target section below).

To what extent is appropriate access to NFS lands provided?

The High Elk land exchange was finalized in FY06. This exchange helped the Forest Service to acquire old mining claims around Marble and thus fill in interior National Forest System lands.

IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING

T&E

Are actions identified in national recovery plans for threatened and endangered species being implemented where opportunities exist on national grasslands and forests?

Wildlife

There is no official 'national recovery plan' for the Canada lynx. However, the WRNF continues to implement the positive direction included in its Forest Plan to protect and enhance habitat for this threatened species. The WRNF was the first National Forest in

the country to include management objectives, standards and guidelines in its Forest Plan for lynx and has been implementing those actions over the past 4 years. A supplemental DEIS for the Southern Rockies Lynx Amendment was released to add the WRNF into the multi-forest project area. The Southern Rockies Lynx Amendment is an amendment to several southern Colorado National Forests Forest Plans. The amendment is to provide consistent direction for management of lynx and their habitat.

No populations of Uncompahgre fritillary butterflies have been documented at this time on the WRNF. If populations are documented in the future, all applicable portions of the recovery plan will be fully implemented.

Habitat surveys were initiated on the WRNF in FY05 and field calling surveys were initiated in FY06 for the Mexican spotted owl. At this time, no individuals or populations have been documented on the forest. If individuals or populations are documented in the future, all applicable portions of the recovery plan will be fully implemented.

No winter roosts for bald eagles have been found on the WRNF. One potential nesting territory was documented in FY06. This nesting territory is being monitored annually and any activities that may potentially affect the nesting pair of eagles will be evaluated in a biological assessment to assure that this nest site is adequately protected.

Aquatics

The Recovery Plan for Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker, humpback chub, and bonytail focuses on their occupied habitat downstream of the WRNF. The only aspect of the Recovery Plan that pertains to WRNF System lands is reservoir releases to supplement flows at key times of the year. These releases are managed by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Administration

Are the action plans identified in the objectives being completed on schedule?

The objectives vary in description, some requiring hard numbers and timelines others are more descriptive in nature with goals. It is stated in the Forest Plan that objectives “means in the form of measurable steps, referred to as strategies, taken to accomplish goals. Objectives generally are achieved by implementing projects or activities. However, they are not targets...” They are a way however to monitor progress toward meeting goals. The monitoring strategy was designed to answer whether the objectives are being met. This report and others help to answer this question.

Implementation

Have site-specific decisions implemented the Land & Resource Management Plan directions?

The following table is a summary of NEPA decisions made in FY2006 on the WRNF.

Decision Document Type Report (White River National Forest Summary)				
NEPA Decisions signed				
Period Covered FY 2006				
Lead Management Unit	ROD	DN	DM	Total
White River National Forest All Units	0	2	0	2
West Zone/Aspen RD	0	2	4	6
West Zone/Blanco RD	0	1	4	5
West Zone/Sopris RD	1	0	5	6
West Zone/Rifle RD	0	2	2	4
East Zone/Eagle RD	0	3	3	6
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	1	7	6	14
East Zone/Dillon RD	1	0	10	11
Forest Totals	3	17	10	54

The following table list specific project decisions made at a forest-wide level.

Lead Management Unit	Project	Decision Type	Forest Plan Goal, Objective, or Strategy (or other regulation)
White River National Forest All Units	Environmental Assessment Forest Plan Amendment 02 – Inventoried Roadless and Alpine	DN	Forest Plan Amendments 36 CFR 219 – During plan implementation, evaluation of monitoring results may reveal that the forest plan needs to be modified (<i>P-7 Forest Plan</i>)
White River National Forest All Units	Environmental Assessment Forest Plan Amendment 03 – MIS	DN	Forest Plan Amendments 36 CFR 219 – During plan implementation, evaluation of monitoring results may reveal that the forest plan needs to be modified (<i>P-7 Forest Plan</i>)

Two amendments were signed in FY2006. One was to comply with remanded direction on alpine and inventoried roadless appeals to the Revised Forest Plan. The White River National Forest was able to establish standards and guidelines for alpine and inventoried roadless areas that met both remanded direction and forest needs.

The other amendment updated the MIS species list. Updating the species list was done to better chose and study species that help the forest to evaluate habitat effectiveness. Biologists and aquatic specialists have conducted studies on the previous list and have had a chance to evaluate the effectiveness of the original list. They have concluded that certain species were covered under other studies, some did not serve as good indicators, and some did serve as good indicators. Therefore to be more efficient and effective the list was revised.

The following tables list the specific project decisions made by Land Management Unit on the WRNF. The tables also show how the decisions link to Forest Plan goals, objectives, strategies or other regulations. No amendments were done for site-specific decisions therefore no deviations from the Forest Plan were done at a project level.

Lead Management Unit	Project	Decision Type	Forest Plan Goal, Objective, or Strategy (or other regulation)
West Zone/Aspen RD	Abandoned Mine Safety Closures – Aspen Area	DM	<i>Strategy 2c.16 Over the life of the plan, identify the work needed to address abandoned mine sites...work on highest priority sites.</i>
West Zone/Aspen RD	Capitol Creek Trail Bridge	DM	<i>Strategy 2a.5 ...NF System trail mileage rated poor or critical has appropriate maintenance or reconstruction conducted.</i>
West Zone/Aspen RD	Lincoln Creek & Grottos Road Mtc./Reconstuction	DM	<i>Strategy 4a.1 ...conduct appropriate maintenance ...of NF Transportation System each year.</i>
West Zone/Aspen RD	Obermeyer Road Easement	DM	<i>Strategy 2c.11 ...approve special use proposals that are consistent with desired conditions, standards, and guidelines.</i>
West Zone/Aspen RD	Snowmass Elk Camp	DN	<i>Strategy 2a.8 Foster quality opportunities for alpine and Nordic skiing and snowboarding through partnerships...</i>
West Zone/Aspen RD	Snowmass Ski Area Master Plan Amendment Ski Area Improvements	DN* under litigation	<i>Strategy 2a.8 Foster quality opportunities for alpine and Nordic skiing and snowboarding through partnerships...</i>

Lead Management Unit	Project	Decision Type	Forest Plan Goal, Objective, or Strategy (or other regulation)
West Zone/Blanco RD	Blanco NW Grazing Allotments	DM	<i>Strategy 2c.3 Continue to satisfy the demand for livestock products through environmentally responsible grazing. ...complete environmental analysis... of NFS grazing allotments and reauthorize grazing permits where consistent with other resource considerations.</i>
West Zone/Blanco RD	Flat Tops Rim Allotments	DN	<i>Strategy 2c.3 (above)</i>
West Zone/Blanco RD	Miller Creek Large Wood Placement	DM	<i>Strategy 1c.10 ...Expand and improve occupied habitat through activities such as ...enhancing quantity of large woody debris...</i>
West Zone/Blanco RD	Morapos Improvement Project	DM	<i>Objective 1a Improve and protect watershed conditions to provide the water quality ...necessary to support ecological functions and intended beneficial uses.</i>
West Zone/Blanco RD	Ripple Creek Overlook Camping Closure	DM	<i>Strategy 2a.2 ...rehabilitate or reconstruct ... developed recreation facility PAOT capacities... to meet agency standards.</i>

Lead Management Unit	Project	Decision Type	Forest Plan Goal, Objective, or Strategy (or other regulation)
West Zone/Sopris RD	Baylor Park Blowdown SEIS	ROD	<i>Objective 1d Increase the amount of forest and rangelands restored to or maintained in a healthy condition with reduced risk and damage from fires, insects, disease, and invasive species. Objective 2c Improve the capability of national forests and rangelands to sustain desired uses, values, products, and services.</i>
West Zone/Sopris RD	Ivanhoe Reservoir Caretaker Facilities	DM	<i>Strategy 4a.3 ...complete...high priority facility reconstruction projects each year.</i>
West Zone/Sopris RD	Little Grand Mesa Water Developments	DM	<i>Strategy 4a.4 ...maintain to standard ...buildings, bridges, and other facilities.</i>
West Zone/Sopris RD	North Thompson Large Wood Placement Project	DM	<i>Strategy 1c.10 ...Expand and improve occupied habitat through activities such as ...enhancing quantity of large woody debris...</i>
West Zone/Sopris RD	Tree Farm Admin Site Management and Restoration Project	DM	<i>Strategy 4a.3 ...complete...high priority facility reconstruction projects each year.</i>
West Zone/Sopris RD	Warren Lakes Restoration Project	DM	<i>Objective 1a Improve and protect watershed conditions to provide the water quality ...necessary to support ecological functions and intended beneficial uses.</i>

Lead Management Unit	Project	Decision Type	Forest Plan Goal, Objective, or Strategy (or other regulation)
West Zone/Rifle RD	Alsby Reservoir Special Use Permit	DM	<i>Strategy 2c.11 ...approve special use proposals that are consistent with desired conditions, standards, and guidelines.</i>
West Zone/Rifle RD	Battlement Mesa Bighorn Sheep Habitat Enhancement-Travel Lane Phase II	DN	<i>Strategy 1c.1 Develop and implement management strategies needed to support desired population levels and trends for species identified as having a viability concern.</i>
West Zone/Rifle RD	Hell's Gulch North Phase 1	DN	<i>Strategy 2c.5 ...respond to requests for leasing, exploration, and development of mineral and energy resources in accordance with regulations and forest plan availability and specific lands decisions.</i>
West Zone/Rifle RD	Horse Park Salvage	DN	<i>Objective 1d Increase the amount of forest and rangelands restored to or maintained in a healthy condition with reduced risk and damage from fires, insects, disease, and invasive species. Objective 2c Improve the capability of national forests and rangelands to sustain desired uses, values, products, and services.</i>

Lead Management Unit	Project	Decision Type	Forest Plan Goal, Objective, or Strategy (or other regulation)
East Zone/Eagle RD	Coffee Pot Campground Access Road	DM	<i>Strategy 4a.1 ...conduct appropriate maintenance ...of NF Transportation System each year.</i>
East Zone/Eagle RD	Coffee Pot Parking Lot	DM	<i>Strategy 2a.3 ... rehabilitate or reconstruct ...trailheads to meet agency standards.</i>
East Zone/Eagle RD	Red Dirt Creek Cutthroat Habitat Restoration Project	DN	<i>Strategy 1c.10 ...Expand and improve occupied habitat through activities such as removing exotic trout species from cutthroat habitat, constructing barriers to prevent invasion or reinvasion of exotic species into occupied habitat, increasing deep pool habitat, enhancing quantity of large woody debris and other physical habitat features.</i>
East Zone/Eagle RD	Sawmill Salvage	DM	<i>Objective 1d Increase the amount of forest and rangelands restored to or maintained in a healthy condition with reduced risk and damage from fires, insects, disease, and invasive species. Objective 2c Improve the capability of national forests and rangelands to sustain desired uses, values, products, and services.</i>
East Zone/Eagle RD	South Game Creek Land Exchange	DN	<i>Strategy 4b.1 ...take advantage of opportunities in approved land ownership adjustment plans to convey, purchase, or exchange lands where needed.</i>
East Zone/Eagle RD	Sunnyside C&H Allotment Grazing Permit Reissuance	DN	<i>Strategy 2c.3 Continue to satisfy the demand for livestock products through environmentally responsible grazing. ...complete environmental analysis... of NFS grazing allotments and reauthorize grazing permits where consistent with other resource considerations.</i>

Lead Management Unit	Project	Decision Type	Forest Plan Goal, Objective, or Strategy (or other regulation)
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Beaver Creek Stables Ownership Change	DM	<i>Strategy 2c.12 ...administer outfitter/guide, resort, and concessionaire permits and contracts to standard...</i>
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Big Park Road Closure	DM	<i>Objective 2b Improve the capability of wilderness and protected areas to sustain desired range of benefits and values ...</i>
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Developed Recreation Site Hazard Tree Removal	DM	<i>Objective 4a Improve the safety and economy of Forest Service roads, trails, facilities, and operations and provide greater security for the public and employees.</i>
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Guided Hunting Capacity	DN	<i>Strategy 2a.1 ...perform area-specific capacity analyses and develop recreational capacity guidelines for the forest.</i>
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Guided Nordic Skiing/Snowshoe Capacity	DN	<i>Strategy 2a.1 ...perform area-specific capacity analyses and develop recreational capacity guidelines for the forest.</i>
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Piney River Project	DN	<i>Strategy 2c.1 ...offer for sale the allowable timber sale quantity.</i>

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East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Red Sandstone-Muddy Pass Road Grooming	DM	<i>Strategy 2c.12 ...administer outfitter/guide, resort, and concessionaire permits and contracts to standard...</i>
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Piney River Ranch Ten-Year Permit Issuance	DN	<i>Strategy 2c.12 ...administer outfitter/guide, resort, and concessionaire permits and contracts to standard...</i>
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Rimel Access Road Easement	DM	<i>Strategy 2c.11 ...approve special use proposals that are consistent with desired conditions, standards, and guidelines.</i>
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Spraddle Creek Ranch Resort Permit Issuance	DN	<i>Strategy 2c.12 ...administer outfitter/guide, resort, and concessionaire permits and contracts to standard...</i>
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Stone Creek Trail Beaver Creek Resort	DN	<i>Strategy 2a.8 Foster quality opportunities for alpine and Nordic skiing and snowboarding through partnerships...</i>
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Vail Ski Area Golden Peak Terrain Modification	DM	<i>Strategy 2a.8 Foster quality opportunities for alpine and Nordic skiing and snowboarding through partnerships...</i>
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Vail Valley Forest Health	ROD	<i>Strategy 2c.1 ...offer for sale the allowable timber sale quantity. Objective 1d Increase the amount of forest and rangelands restored to or maintained in a healthy condition with reduced risk and damage from fires, insects, disease, and invasive species. Objective 2c Improve the capability of national forests and rangelands to sustain desired uses, values, products, and services.</i>
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	West Lionshead Chairlift Proposal Vail Mountain	DN	<i>Strategy 2a.8 Foster quality opportunities for alpine and Nordic skiing and snowboarding through partnerships...</i>

Lead Management Unit	Project	Decision Type	Forest Plan Goal, Objective, or Strategy (or other regulation)
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Beaver Creek Stables Ownership Change	DM	<i>Strategy 2c.12 ...administer outfitter/guide, resort, and concessionaire permits and contracts to standard...</i>
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Big Park Road Closure	DM	<i>Objective 2b Improve the capability of wilderness and protected areas to sustain desired range of benefits and values ...</i>
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Developed Recreation Site Hazard Tree Removal	DM	<i>Objective 4a Improve the safety and economy of Forest Service roads, trails, facilities, and operations and provide greater security for the public and employees.</i>
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Guided Hunting Capacity	DN	<i>Strategy 2a.1 ...perform area-specific capacity analyses and develop recreational capacity guidelines for the forest.</i>
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Guided Nordic Skiing/Snowshoe Capacity	DN	<i>Strategy 2a.1 ...perform area-specific capacity analyses and develop recreational capacity guidelines for the forest.</i>
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Piney River Project	DN	<i>Strategy 2c.1 ...offer for sale the allowable timber sale quantity.</i>

East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Red Sandstone-Muddy Pass Road Grooming	DM	<i>Strategy 2c.12 ...administer outfitter/guide, resort, and concessionaire permits and contracts to standard...</i>
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Piney River Ranch Ten-Year Permit Issuance	DN	<i>Strategy 2c.12 ...administer outfitter/guide, resort, and concessionaire permits and contracts to standard...</i>
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Rimel Access Road Easement	DM	<i>Strategy 2c.11 ...approve special use proposals that are consistent with desired conditions, standards, and guidelines.</i>
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Spraddle Creek Ranch Resort Permit Issuance	DN	<i>Strategy 2c.12 ...administer outfitter/guide, resort, and concessionaire permits and contracts to standard...</i>
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Stone Creek Trail Beaver Creek Resort	DN	<i>Strategy 2a.8 Foster quality opportunities for alpine and Nordic skiing and snowboarding through partnerships...</i>
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Vail Ski Area Golden Peak Terrain Modification	DM	<i>Strategy 2a.8 Foster quality opportunities for alpine and Nordic skiing and snowboarding through partnerships...</i>
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	Vail Valley Forest Health	ROD	<i>Strategy 2c.1 ...offer for sale the allowable timber sale quantity. Objective 1d Increase the amount of forest and rangelands restored to or maintained in a healthy condition with reduced risk and damage from fires, insects, disease, and invasive species. Objective 2c Improve the capability of national forests and rangelands to sustain desired uses, values, products, and services.</i>
East Zone/Holy Cross RD	West Lionshead Chairlift Proposal Vail Mountain	DN	<i>Strategy 2a.8 Foster quality opportunities for alpine and Nordic skiing and snowboarding through partnerships...</i>

Are standards and guidelines and management identified in the Forest Plan allotment management plan and/or AOI being implemented as planned?

The INFRA database contains information on “Allotments Managed to Standard”. The definition of “allotments managed to standard” includes during the fiscal year, an Agency employee qualified in grazing permit administration successfully administers grazing allotments to standard by implementing direction found in forest plans, allotment management plans, annual operating instructions, grazing permits or agreements, and other relevant documents. This direction also includes that corrective action occurs as needed. In 2006 285,000 acres were identified as “managed to standard. Very little corrective action was needed due to non compliance with term grazing permits, AOI or FP standards and guidelines. Documentation is located in the 2210 and 2230 files for the individual allotments and permits. Some of the utilization monitoring information also occurs in the Terra database. This information is also available in the performance (target) accomplishment report.

Is an integrated noxious weed program being implemented?

An integrated noxious weed program is being implemented on the White River National Forest. Every year an update of the White River Invasive Species Action Plan occurs, identifying priorities for treatment, inventory and monitoring. Methods used during 2006 included use of biological agents, manual and chemical means of controlling weeds. Over 2,600 acres of weeds were treated. This information is also available in the performance (target) accomplishment report.

Prevention measures are being incorporated into special use permits (i.e. ski resort operating plans, etc.). Weed free forage restrictions are being enforced. Weed inventory information is located GIS and Terra.

VALIDATION MONITORING

Noxious Weeds

Are treatment and prevention measures effective in reducing infestations of noxious weeds?

Treatment measures are effective in reducing infestations of noxious weeds. Areas treated during prior years are yielding fewer noxious weeds and therefore taking less time to treat on an annual basis. However the spread of noxious weeds is increasing at an alarming rate because we are not treating enough areas annually to keep up with the spread rate. One only has to look at the spread of Yellow toadflax to see that natural spread rate far exceeds the reduction that occurs as a result of our treatments. This information exists within the GIS and Terra databases, annual pesticide use reports and district application records.

Target Accomplishments for FY2006

The target accomplishment report shows where the WRNF is achieving land management goals based on mandated direction and local aspirations. The targets also demonstrate how Forest Plan goals and objectives are or are not being met as well. The annual accomplishment report is included as well for consistency as it was also part of the FY2004 and FY2005 report.

Budget Target Description	Unit	Target	Plan	Actual	Balance
<i>Forest Plan Objective/Strategy relating to the target(s) above. Note too that target accomplishment requirements also come from Legislative, Executive, and Agency Mandates, Regulation, Manual, and Handbook direction as well.</i>					

Goal: Ecosystem Health

Firefighting production capability	Chain	23	23	23	0
<i>Strategy Id.5 Continue to strengthen UCRIFMU relationships to increase wildland fire protection capabilities to provide for firefighter and public safety.</i>					
Non-WUI hazardous fuels reduction	Acre	1175	1175	2519	+1344
Federal acres protected – invasives	Acre	69	1100	1745	+1676
Federal acres protected – native	Acre	0	170	258	+258
Number of Forest Health acres protected on federal lands	Acre	0	25	25	+25
<i>Strategy Id.7 Implement management practices, including prescribed fire, that will move landscapes towards desired vegetation composition and structure...</i>					
WUI high priority fuels treated	Acre	1345	2676	1541	+196
<i>Strategy Id.6 Place high priority on fuel reduction activities in urban/wildland interface areas.</i>					
Acres of forest vegetation established	Acre	239	149	240	+1
<i>Objective 1d Increase the amount of forest and rangelands restored to or maintained at a healthy condition...</i>					
Acres of rangeland vegetation improved	Acre	135000	201889	196887	+61887
Acres of rangeland monitored and evaluated	Acre	0	4650	4650	+4650
<i>Strategy 1s.11 Through the life of the plan, identify those rangelands in unhealthy condition and prescribe and implement strategies that restore or enhance the health and long term stability...</i>					
Number of legacy datasets to be migrated	Acre	0	30	30	+30
Acres of inventory data collected/required	Acre	1.5m	1.5m	1.5m	0
Acres above project integrated inventories	Acre	0	2500	2500	+2500
<i>Strategy 1a.1, 1c.3, 1c.16, 1c.19, 1c.21, 1c.25, 1c.26, 1c.27, 1c.28, 1d.1, 2b.9 all include inventory criteria</i>					
Acres managed for noxious weed & invasive plants	Acre	2600	3009	2866	+266
<i>Strategy 1d.1 Over the life of the plan, continue to implement the Integrated Noxious Weed Management Approach. This includes prevention, detection, education, awareness, inventory, planning, integrated noxious weed management, ...</i>					
Number of allotment acres administered to 100% of standard	Acre	275000	285000	285350	+10350
Number of grazing allotments with signed DN	Allot	6	15	15	+9
Number of range structural improvements	Struct	0	4	5	+5
Number of range structural improvements by contributors	Struct	0	3	3	+3

Acres of range non-structural improvements completed	Acre	0	12	12	+12
<i>Strategy 1d.10 Over the life of the plan continue to work cooperatively with grazing permittees ...to design and implement grazing systems that maintain or enhance ecosystem function.</i>					
Acres soil and water resources improved	Acre	12	22	21	+9
<i>Objective 1a Improve and protect watershed conditions to provide the water quality and quantity and soil productivity necessary to support ecological functions and intended beneficial uses.</i>					
Acres of T&E species terrestrial habitat enhanced	Acre	0	5	33	+33
<i>Strategy 1b.1 Cooperate with USFWS in development and implementation of conservation and recovery strategies and plans for plant and animal species listed as T&E under ESA</i>					
Acres of terrestrial habitat enhanced	Acre	0	500	500	+500
Acres on non-T&E terrestrial habitat enhanced	Acre	722	10374	6353	+5631
Acres of inland lake habitat enhanced	Acre	11	12	7	-5
Acres of inland stream habitat enhanced	Acre	8	8	9	+1
Dollar value of partnership contributions that support habitat enhancement	Dollar	183904	0	0	-183904*
<i>Objective 1b Provide ecological conditions to sustain viable populations of native and desired non-native species...</i>					

*A number of projects that exceeded the target amount were done with partners for habitat restoration, such as the Black Gore Creek Restoration Project, but these were not recorded in work plan.

Goal: Multiple Benefits to People

Number of safety risk abandoned mine site features mitigated to “no further action”	Site	19	13	17	-2
<i>Strategy 2c.16 Over the life of the plan, identify the work needed to address abandoned mine siteswork on highest priority sites.</i>					
Number of APD processed	Apps	0	30	24	+24
Number of oil, gas, and geothermal operations administered	Oper	0	25	25	+25
Number of oil, gas, and geothermal leases processed	Apps	0	60	18	+18
Number of mineral notices of intent processed	Action	0	0	5	+5
<i>Strategy 2c.5 Over the life of the plan, respond to requests for leasing, exploration, and development of mineral and energy resources...</i>					
Number of air quality sites monitored	Site	0	10	10	+10
<i>Strategy 2c.17 Over the life of the plan, minimize the amount and impact of air pollutants produced from land management activities.</i>					
Number of land use authorizations administered to standard	Auth	40	41	162	+122
Number of land use proposals and applications processed	App	28	30	113	+85
<i>Strategy 2c.11 Over the life of the plan, approve special use proposals that are consistent with desired conditions, standards, and guidelines.</i>					
Number of mineral plans of operation administered	Oper	96	96	27	-69
Number of mineral plans of operation processed	Plan	85	85	18	-67
<i>Strategy 2c.8 Over the life of the plan, provide for mineral exploration and development, in accordance with law and regulations. Strategy 2c.7 Over the life of the plan, provide for mineral materials when the national forest is the only available source for the materials.</i>					
Number of PAOT days administered to	PDays	277000	224377	277000	0

standard					
Number of recreation interpretation & education products provided to standard	Product	130	63	338	+208
Number of recreation days managed to standard	Day	8205	3581	8205	0
Number of visitor use monitoring site surveys completed	Survey Day	225	0	0	-225
<i>Objective 2a Improve the capability of the national forests and grasslands to provide diverse, high quality outdoor recreation programs</i>					
Miles of trail maintained to standard	Mile	662	528	627	-35
<i>Strategy 2a.5 Within 10 years plan approval, 30% of NFST mileage or critical has appropriate maintenance or reconstruction conducted.</i>					
Hundred CCF of timber volume sold	CCF	15000	20675	25547	+10547
Hundred CCF of salvage sale timber volume sold	CCF	2000	2000	0	-2000
<i>Strategy 2c.1 By the end of the plan period, offer for sale the allowable timber sale quantity</i>					
Number of wilderness areas administered to standard	Number	4	6	6	+2
<i>Objective 2b Improve the capability of wilderness and protected areas to sustain desired range of benefits and values...</i>					

Goal: Science and Technical Assistance

Number of wildlife interpretation and education products	product	7	17	16	+9
<i>Objective 3a Increase the effectiveness of scientific, developmental, and technical information to support ecological, economic, and social sustainability</i>					

Goal: Effective Public Service

Number of facilities maintained to standard	Facility	232	233	225	-7
Number of bridges that were inspected on schedule	Bridge	0	0	19	+19
<i>Strategy 4a.4 Within five years of plan approval, maintain to standard 20% of buildings, bridges, and other facilities.</i>					
Number of acres acquired or conveyed	Acre	493	517	517	+24
Number of acres acquired or donated	Acre	488	450	487	-1
Number of title management cases resolved or administered to standard	Case	11	12	12	+1
<i>Strategy 4b.1 Over the life of the plan, take advantage of opportunities in approved land ownership adjustment plans to convey, purchase, or exchange lands where needed.</i>					
Miles of property boundary maintained to standard	Mile	0	4	4	+4
Miles of land ownership boundary marked to standard	Mile	16	21	21	+5
<i>Strategy 4b.2 By the end of the plan period, survey and mark 21% of NFS land boundaries to standard.</i>					
Miles of high clearance road in compliance with RMO	Mile	0	0	314	+314
Miles of high clearance roads maintained	Mile	60	60	179	+119
Miles of high clearance and stored road treated to meet soil and water BMP's.	Mile	0	0	314	+314
Miles of high clearance roads passable to high clearance vehicles	Mile	0	0	1346	+1346

Miles of passenger car roads maintained	Mile	338	338	431	+93
Miles of passenger car roads in compliance with RMO	Mile	0	0	228	+228
Miles of road reconstructed	Mile	0	0	10	+10
Miles of purchaser and stewardship road reconstructed	Mile	0	0	19	+19
<i>Strategy 4a.1 Within five years of plan approval, conduct appropriate maintenance on 25% of NF Transportation System each year.</i>					
Miles of road decommissioned	Mile	3	6	9	+6
<i>Strategy 4a.2 Decommission an average of 22 miles of NFSR each year.</i>					
Number of rights-of-way acquired	Number	1	12	12	+11
<i>Objective 4b Provide appropriate access to NFS lands and USDA FS programs</i>					

Goal: Public Collaboration

Number of projects on State Transportation Improvement plans	Project	0	0	1	+1
<i>Strategy 5a.2 Cooperatively work with local governments to address issues of common concern and to the extent possible maintain consistency with locally adopted master plans.</i>					

Goal: American Indian Rights and Interests

No targets are directly related to this goal

The monitoring strategy under the five year frequency for reporting contains elements for reporting accomplishments in this field.

In FY2006 several project surveys and patrols were conducted for archeological sites. Staff went before the Southern Ute Tribal Council to present the status of the Travel Management Plan.

As a subset of Target Accomplishments FY2006 NFIM funding was allocated to meet specific inventory and monitoring targets in the fields of air, hydrology, aquatics, wildlife, and invasive weeds.

- For air quality was collected from 10 sites.
- The Divide Watershed Assessment Report was completed from data collected in FY2005.
- In aquatics the following survey work was done for the following: Cutthroat trout surveys (Sensitive), Boreal toad surveys (Sensitive), MIS monitoring field work for trout and aquatic macroinvertebrate, and MIS report completion from FY2005 MIS field work. These surveys are part of an on going process to monitor for fish population and habitat quality.
- For wildlife the following survey work was done for the following T&E, Sensitive, and MIS species: Horned lark and American pipit, Black swift, MacGillivray’s warbler, Green-tailed towhee, Brewer’s sparrow, Cave bats, Snowshoe hare, Sage-grouse, Mexican spotted owl. These studies are on-going efforts that occur annually to be able to discern population trends and habitat conditions across the forest.

- For hydrology several water sampling and on-site condition studies were conducted across the forest for water quality. In cooperation with aquatics studies are also conducted to identify and place road crossings that do not hinder aquatic movement and improve water quality. Plans for and project implementation for major stream crossings were initiated in FY2006.
- For invasive weeds surveys are conducted during range allotment condition surveys, and as the weed crews treat areas across the forest. This information is being collected and put into GIS and database format for tracking.
- All areas were able to update some of the legacy data for NRIS. Each section (water, aquatics, vegetation, terrestrial, etc.) of NRIS is at different stages and thus so is the data that is able to be entered. There is still more to be done here.

Target conclusion

It is interesting to note most targets can be related to strategies or objectives in the Forest Plan, but not all strategies, objectives, and goals relate to targets. Target relationships vary in strength as far as how they relate to the Forest Plan. Of course targets are based more on legislative and executive priorities and thus how funding is distributed. An examination during the five-year review should be to relook at Forest Plan goals, objectives, strategies, desired conditions, and even standards and guideline to see if they meet national goals and objectives.

Future Monitoring – set up for the FY2007 Five Year Report

Though it's only been five years changes in conditions and emphasis have occurred. The Forest Plan though programmatic in nature should also be updated to stay current with major changes. For example the beetle epidemic or natural gas production was not on the horizon during Forest Plan development. Another example is as we have progressed in monitoring species and habitat we have learned more about what to focus on and what was not effective. As we look at the Forest Plan we will also look at the monitoring strategy and update it if necessary to reflect effective monitoring practices. Keeping the Forest Plan current gives the forest a document that is useful as a guide for management of forest lands.