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Forest Service

Pacific
Southwest
Region

Land Management Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Report

San Bernardino National Forest Fiscal Year 2008

September 2009



September 2009

I am pleased to present the San Bernardino National Forest's Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Report for your review. The purpose of the Monitoring and Evaluation Report is to determine the effectiveness of the Land Management Plan and whether changes are necessary to the Plan, or in program or project implementation.

In 2005, the San Bernardino National Forest revised its Land Management Plan. In the Record of Decision, the monitoring requirements were identified as the cornerstone of our program emphasis for the future. We are now in the third year of monitoring conducted under the revised plan, and the Forest has learned a great deal from monitoring. The lessons we learn from monitoring help improve our programs and projects. We continue to find ways to increase effectiveness of our monitoring and evaluation efforts. In our fifth year monitoring report we will answer questions designed to evaluate progress toward the Forest's desired conditions. It is my commitment to keep you informed of the monitoring results through this report. If you would like to participate in future monitoring, please contact the Forest.

Your continued interest in the San Bernardino National Forest Land Management Plan is just one way for you to stay current with activities on your public lands. Additional information can be found on our website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino>.

Sincerely,

s/ Jeanne Wade Evans

JEANNE WADE EVANS
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San Bernardino Land Management Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Report

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San Bernardino Land Management Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Report

I. Introduction

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Monitoring and Evaluation Report documents the evaluation of selected projects and programs where activities occurred during October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008. The primary purpose of this Evaluation is to determine the effectiveness of the 2005 Land Management Plan (LMP) and whether changes in the LMP or in project or program implementation are necessary.

II. Methodology

The monitoring plan for the San Bernardino National Land Management Plan is described in all parts of the LMP. Monitoring requirements are summarized in LMP Part 3, Appendix C.

The [San Bernardino Monitoring Guide](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino/) further details the protocols that were used in this review. This guide is available on the San Bernardino National Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino/> and to the public upon request.

Appendix C of the LMP outlines our monitoring requirements in three parts:

Part 1 Monitoring identifies outcome questions that will help evaluate movement towards the desired conditions over the long-term. The monitoring guide describes the baseline data that will be used to answer these questions and evaluate progress over time toward desired conditions. A comprehensive evaluation and report of this movement will be prepared in the fifth year following plan implementation, so it is not included in this annual report.

Part 2 Monitoring focuses on program implementation including inventory. Forest Service corporate databases track accomplishment of work related to objectives and strategies (LMP Part 2).

Part 3 Monitoring is conducted at the project or activity level. An approximate ten percent (10%) sample of projects implemented in 2008 and ongoing activities were randomly selected for monitoring. Selected project and ongoing activity sites were then visited by an interdisciplinary monitoring team to review the application and effectiveness of the design criteria. If problems in implementation were detected or if design criteria were determined to be ineffective, the team recommended corrective actions. This year, the Forest successfully implemented a recommendation from the FY 2006 Monitoring Report to combine LMP monitoring with Best Management Practice (BMP) monitoring. Additionally, the Forest Leadership Team participated in monitoring on one day, and staff from the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board joined the team for one day. The monitoring team asked the following questions of each reviewed project or ongoing activity:

Project leaders answered following questions at project site or during the activity review:

Monitoring Questions for Review of Projects and Ongoing Activity Sites	If no, identify what phase of the process was deficient (i.e. NEPA or project administration) and describe deficiencies. If yes, identify any standard operating procedure or key reason(s) for the success.
Were LMP goals, desired conditions and standards incorporated into NEPA documents and any procedural plans (i.e. burn plans, allotment plans, facility master plan, etc.)?	
What were the mitigation measures or LMP project design criteria and were they implemented as designed?	
What were the requirements from Biological Assessments/Evaluations and Heritage Evaluations (ARRs) and Watershed Assessments and were they implemented?	
Were legal and other requirements identified as applicable to the project or site addressed?	
Were operational controls effective at protecting the environment as intended?	

The monitoring team asked the following questions of project or ongoing activity after project leader described actions in table above. We compared expected results to actual results and sought cause and effect relationships, not individual performance.

1. Did we accomplish what we set out to do?
2. Has project design criteria been effective at protecting resources as expected?
3. If not why not?
4. What are we going to do next time?
 - a. What activities should be continued to sustain success?
 - b. Are changes needed to correct any implementation or effectiveness-related problems?
 - c. If change is needed, will it require an amendment or administrative correction to the Land Management Plan?

The results, conclusions, and recommendations were documented and used in this annual LMP Monitoring and Evaluation Report.



III. Part 2 LMP Monitoring – Program Implementation

Part 2 Monitoring is focused on program implementation, including inventory. The goal is to answer the question: Are projects being implemented as planned? Sixteen indicators, presented in Table 1 below, are measured and reported annually. Additionally, the LMP specifies two additional monitoring questions for the San Bernardino National Forest involving pebble plain habitat and carbonate habitat, both of which are discussed in this section. This section also provides additional monitoring updates on the following Forest programs: OHV, Heritage, Water Quality, Roads, Air Quality, Biological Resource Condition, Threatened and Endangered Species, and Lands.

Table 1. Annual Performance Indicators (FY 2008)

Indicator	FY 2008 Accomplishment
Acres of Terrestrial Habitat Enhanced	20,572
Miles of Aquatic Habitat Enhanced	25
Acres of Noxious Weeds Treated	210
Acres of Vegetation Improved (also see Hazardous Fuels Reduction)	18,819
Acres of Watershed Improved	3,414
Number of Heritage Resources Managed to Standard	27
Recreation Special Use Authorizations Administered to Standard	366
PAOT Days Managed to Standard (Developed Sites)	396,000
Land Use Authorizations Administered to Standard	75
Number of Mineral Operations Administered	8
Manage Grazing Allotments	155,996
Acres of Hazardous Fuels Reduction	18,819
Miles of Passenger Car Roads Maintained to Objective Maintenance Level	302
Miles of High Clearance & Back Country Roads Maintained to Objective Maintenance Level	145
Miles of Road Decommissioned	0
Miles of Trail Operated and Maintained to Standard	16

Carbonate Endemic Plant Habitat Management (Forest Goal 6.2)

Monitoring and Results

The following LMP monitoring question was asked:

- Is habitat being conserved through implementation of the Carbonate Habitat Management Strategy? Yes, as outlined below under reference values.

Reference Values: The following actions from the Carbonate Habitat Management Strategy Part IV (Administration) were taken during FY2008.

13(a)(iii): The Habitat Reserve was managed for conservation of carbonate Plants and consistent public uses, as provided under section 9(f) of the CHMS. This management included use, maintenance and patrol of the Forest Transportation System, maintenance of fencing and signage, and administration of special use authorizations.

13(b)(i) and (ii): The habitat and credit registry were maintained and updated in the Mountaintop GIS during FY2008. These data were used to answer multiple queries from Mitsubishi, SMI, OMYA and the Cushenbury Mine Trust with regard to their ongoing activities under the CHMS.

Conclusions

Management activities associated with carbonate habitat during FY08 made limited gains toward the desired conditions of protecting the habitat reserve, avoiding destruction of critical habitat, recovering listed species, and restoring carbonate habitat. The main factors limiting substantial gains in these areas was available funding and awaiting the Multi-Party Agreement drafting by the Industry partners.

Recommendations

- Continue ongoing work towards the LMP recommended establishment of the Blackhawk RNA; work on taking title to Mitsubishi Cement Co. (MCC) 17P and 18P via donation by MCC.

Pebble Plain Plant Habitat Management (Forest Goal 6.2)

Monitoring and Results

The following LMP monitoring questions were asked:

- Is habitat being conserved through implementation of conservation strategies? Yes, as outlined below under reference values.
- Are resource conditions indicating a stable or upward trend toward meeting desired conditions? Yes, resource conditions indicate a stable trend during FY08.

Reference Values: The following actions from the Pebble Plain Habitat Management Guide were taken during FY2008.

D-1 (5.): Coordination continued with Southern California Edison and Bear Valley Electric Service to avoid and minimize impacts associated with operation and maintenance of their electrical transmission lines through pebble plain habitat.

D-1 (6.): Patrols continued to monitor sensitive areas, record impacts, and maintain fences, signs and gates. Barbed wire continued to be replaced with smooth wire.

D-1 (9.): The Forest Minerals Officer, in coordination with the District Botanist, continued to manage mining-related activities in and around pebble plain habitat. The strategy is to work with claimholders to prepare Notices of Intent that avoid impacts to pebble plain habitat by design.

D-1 (12.): The effort to identify, close and restore unclassified roads in pebble plain habitat was folded into the OHV Route Designation Project. A final decision on this action was rendered in February 2009 and implementation is expected for 2010.

Conclusions

Management activities associated with pebble plains during FY08 made limited gains toward the desired conditions of conserving habitat, minimizing incompatible uses, restoring habitat, and recovery of listed species. The main factor limiting substantial gains in these areas was available funding.

Recommendations

- Continue ongoing work towards the LMP recommended establishment of the Arrastre and Wildhorse RNAs.
- Look for additional opportunities to improve pebble plain habitat through the integration of functional programs.

OHV Program Monitoring (Forest Goal 3.1)

In addition to the OHV Soil Monitoring described below, there are three additional methods of OHV program monitoring. Each program is described separately with conclusions and recommendations for all compiled at the end of this section.

1) OHV Trail Soil Monitoring

Monitoring

The Cactus Flats motorcycle/ATV trail system was constructed in 1992. It consists of five miles of OHV trail with loops of varying difficulty levels. At that time, the District OHV staff working with a Regional Soil Scientist created a soil monitoring program and established soil monitoring stations, erosion sites and photo points on the Cactus Flats OHV trail system. Quarterly soil monitoring was conducted from 1992-2001 by Forest OHV staff and volunteers and annual soil monitoring reports were completed.

Subsequently, in 2003, soil monitoring sites were established along Forest Trails 3W12 and 3W13 (50' OHV trails) located north of Lake Arrowhead. New soil monitoring stations, sediment traps and channel crossing monitoring sites were established in spring 2003 on Forest Trails 3W12 and 3W13.

The results of the Cactus Flats soil monitoring were analyzed following the monitoring effort of 1992 to 1997. In sandy soils, OHVs driving on flat ground naturally created high banked turns through simple mechanical erosion. In loamy or clay soils, the trails experienced moderate to high erosion. In sections of trail with rocky soils, the trail tread stayed relatively stable with little soil displacement. The Cactus Flats OHV trail system had settled in and hardened by 1998. Analysis of soil monitoring data collected from 1998-2001 indicated very little soil movement and/or soil erosion occurrence. The Cactus Flats OHV trail soil monitoring program ceased in its previous capacity in 2001. Annual trail maintenance is performed on the Cactus Flats OHV trail system from 2001 to the present. Any increased soil loss or sediment loading is addressed during regular trail maintenance.

At Lake Arrowhead, in the 2003/2004 winter, the soil monitoring stations and erosion sites located on Forest Trails 3W12 and 3W13 were destroyed by heavy rains, flashfloods and effects

from the burned watershed within the 2003 Old Fire. The floods destroyed (washed out) and/or covered the soil monitoring sites with large amounts of debris and sediment; these sites were not reestablished.

Soil monitoring has shown that, when conducted after the wet season, good trail design becomes apparent. Trails that experience increased soil loss need additional soil monitoring and mitigation. In the FY06 Monitoring Report the team made recommendations to move the Forest towards the desired conditions for watershed function by considering another simple, yet effective OHV Trail Monitoring Program to provide specific information to help guide annual trail maintenance.

In 2008, funds were acquired to reinitiate the soil monitoring program which were to begin in in FY09. Emphasis will occur in sites experiencing moderate to high soil loss in settings rated as high to extreme soil erosion hazard ratings by the Soil Conservation Service. Several employee/volunteer Soil Monitoring Coordinators will be established across the Forest. Information and any results from the new monitoring effort will be reported in the FY10 Monitoring Report.

Recommendations

- Ensure soil Monitoring Coordinators are designated and soil monitoring is occurring as planned.

2) Wildlife Habitat Protection Program/ Habitat Monitoring Plan (WHPP/HMP) and OHV Restoration Site Monitoring

Monitoring

Wildlife Habitat Protection Program/Habitat Monitoring Plan (WHPP/HMP) and Restoration Site Monitoring are funded in partnership with the State of California Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVRD). WHPP/HMP monitoring is conducted by Forest field staff four times a year using maps and checklists to protect and restore threatened, endangered and sensitive wildlife and plant habitat from unauthorized off road and trail use. Restoration sites are monitored to ensure they are not affected by unauthorized use and to schedule maintenance needs.

Under the 2008 WHPP/HMP, 22 locations of wildlife habitat and 36 locations of plant habitat were monitored 4 times. In 2008, 24 of the 58 sites had unauthorized off highway vehicle use occur. This was deemed unacceptable and a task force involving OHV, recreation, resource personnel and OHV volunteers was formed. OHV volunteers have began an "adoptive monitoring" program to increase monitoring and maintenance in areas with recurring impacts in addition to the quarterly monitoring/maintenance performed by forest personnel. Interdisciplinary teams will be scheduled to address repetitive concerns in sensitive areas. Also in 2008, twenty nine restoration sites in addition to 17 miles of newly restored trails at Baldy Mesa were monitored once (several restoration sites have been removed from monitoring due to complete recovery). During field monitoring, newly created impacts were disguised immediately by covering trails with forest litter, rocks and vegetation to prevent future damage. For locations needing intensive treatment such as well established trails, erosion control work or long stretches of fence maintenance, a work party was scheduled. In conjunction with the

monitoring, OHV conservation funds were used to propagate plants to immediately disguise unauthorized trails and to maintain a supply of containerized plants for this use.

The 2008/2009 State of California Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division grant proposal on the SBNF was updated to include the prospectus for trends and expectations for OHV trails as described in the 2005 LMP. In addition, the proposal included goals to assist the Forest in achieving the desired conditions for OHV use. A shift has occurred in this cycle of grants to put more money into monitoring/maintaining previous restoration sites rather than starting new ones.

3) Adopt-a-Trail Program Road and Trail Monitoring

Monitoring

The San Bernardino National Forest motorized Adopt-a-Trail (AAT) Program maintains over 200 miles of forest roads and trails. The AAT Program currently has over 42 active clubs and an estimated 3,000 volunteers that conduct monitoring on all three ranger districts. In addition, some volunteers are trained to operate bulldozers, front loaders, backhoes, chainsaws, ATVs and motorcycles.

The Adopt-a-Trail clubs monitor thousands of acres of National Forest System (NFS) lands. Every adopted road and trail has an annual written maintenance plan that identifies specific maintenance needs. Maintenance includes brushing, culvert clearance, off road restoration, maintenance of signs, and facilities and equipment needs. The maintenance plans include monitoring points which include fence lines, barricades for sensitive habitats, restoration sites, hiking trail interfaces (unauthorized use), private property trespass and stream crossing monitoring. Volunteers repair any breach at the established monitoring points as soon as possible after they are found using supplies and/or equipment provided by the Forest Service.

4) SBNFA-OHV Volunteer Program Monitoring

Monitoring

The San Bernardino National Forest Association (SBNFA)-OHV Volunteer Program has approximately 150 members that conduct monitoring on all three ranger districts. The volunteers are skilled 4 x 4, ATV and motorcycle operators and they provide written reports surmising their daily activities in the forest.

After 80 hours of specific training, the OHV Volunteers are given the authority to patrol as hosts making public contacts while monitoring the forest. The OHV Volunteers report forest fires, illegal campfires, traffic collisions and other incidents while providing service to our public. While in the field, the OHV Volunteers are trained to monitor sensitive areas such as meadows, wilderness areas, urban interface (excessive sound), streams, and rare plant and wildlife habitats for unauthorized uses.

The OHV Volunteers are a vital Forest resource. Including all the services described above they are trained to identify and complete field projects and often assist the WHPP monitors and the Adopt-A-Trail forces.

SBNF Travel Management Monitoring

Monitoring is expected to begin in conjunction with implementation of the SBNF Travel Management NEPA decision. Monitoring protocols and results will be reported in the FY10 LMP monitoring report.

Conclusions for WHPP, Restoration Site, Adopt-A-Trail and SBNFA OHV Monitoring and Travel Management Monitoring Programs

Off-Highway vehicle use on designated routes is consistent with LMP Goal 5.2 to provide for public use and resource protection. Active management for OHV is also consistent with this goal and Strategy Law 1- to utilize cooperative agreements with local law enforcement agencies, and supplement field personnel and provide additional law enforcement support primarily on high use weekends or holidays when visitor use is highest. OHV management is a program emphasis in several of the Places across the forest. The 2005 SBNF LMP prospectus for trends and expectations over the next 3-5 years for Trails (part 2, p.35) states that the program will emphasize improving the national forest OHV system by designating OHV road and trail routes and effectively managing inappropriate use. The desired condition for OHV use is for the use to occur on designated routes only.

Along routes within the WHPP/HMP, Adopt-A-Trail and SBNFA OHV Volunteer monitoring programs, mitigation of unauthorized OHV use to protect natural resources and wildlife habitats has been successful in most locations. In those areas where the Forest has a managed presence, unauthorized uses are decreasing. Most areas with less presence are seeing increased use and resource impacts. It will continue to be a challenge to monitor and restore all unauthorized OHV impacts across the forest within and out of the WHPP and restoration site monitoring locations. The monitoring programs have the ability to move the Forest toward the desired condition for OHV use. Because the Forest has three successful OHV monitoring programs, we have an opportunity to improve the management of our OHV areas as we better coordinate this monitoring. Additionally, the Forest completed its Travel Management project in January 2009. Implementation, which includes 45 miles of unauthorized route restoration, is expected to improve unmanaged OHV use on the Forest.

Recommendations for WHPP/HMP, Site Restoration, Adopt-A-Trail and SBNFA OHV Monitoring Programs

- To comply with Standard 35 and to move the Forest towards the desired conditions for managed recreation, watershed management and biological resource conditions, continue to coordinate the WHPP/HMP, site restoration, Adopt a Trail and SBNFA OHV volunteer monitoring programs and the internal OHV taskforce described in WHPP section above.
- To ensure all WHPP/HMG and restoration sites are monitored four times a year as required, continue to implement the new monitoring dates established in 2007. This will prevent snow cover from restricting access to monitoring sites.
- Implement the 2009 Forest Travel Management decision and the Travel Management monitoring as scheduled.

Heritage Program Monitoring (Forest Goal 3.1)

Monitoring

Two types of heritage program monitoring are conducted. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires that the Forest locate and protect properties that are potentially

eligible for, and sites that are on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), during project planning and implementation. Project monitoring is conducted to ensure sites are avoided, to monitor when activities are being conducted within a site boundary or to ensure project activities will not affect subsurface sites. The Archaeological Clearance Memo that is signed by the District and Forest Archaeologist and included in the project file identifies if management measures are necessary for protection of historic properties and if Section 106 monitoring is required during project implementation.

Each time Section 106 monitoring is completed, the District Archaeologist completes a standardized form. The forms are not added to the project file; they are filed on the District by year. Annually, District Archaeologists provide information from the forms to the Forest Archaeologist for completion of the Regional Programmatic Agreement Report (RPA). This report identifies all projects completed under the Programmatic Agreement, activities that occurred and projects that were monitored.

Section 110 of the NHPA requires monitoring and evaluation of the condition of existing historic properties that are not affected by planned management activities. It is a proactive program for the purpose of identifying and evaluating historic resources for their potential inclusion into the National Register. Monitoring is completed to report historic property condition or to report if sites have been vandalized. The SBNF is required to conduct assessments and condition surveys on 20% of the Forest's Priority Heritage Assets each year. In FY 2008, the SBNF requirement for Section 10 monitoring and reporting included 11 properties.

Results

In FY 2008, under Section 106, the SBNF implemented methods to avoid, as well as monitor during and after implementation to avoid impacts to heritage resources during all fuel reduction projects and associated activities. A total of 12 projects required monitors to protect sites during FY08.

Conclusions

During FY08, Section 106 monitoring was completed as required for 12 projects, and 11 Priority Heritage Asset sites were monitored under Section 110.

Recommendations

- Ensure the Archaeological Clearance Memo and Tribal Consultation documentation is included in the project file prior to implementation and that it is implemented as described.

Water Quality Monitoring (Forest Goals 5.1 and 5.2)

Best Management Practices Evaluation Program (BMPEP)

Forest Service obligations to the State Water Board Management Area Agreement include 1) correcting water quality problems on the national forests, 2) perpetually implementing the Best Management Practices (BMPs) and 3) monitoring and evaluating effectiveness of BMPs.

Results

The SBNF contributed to the restoration of deteriorated watershed lands by accomplishing eighty acres within the Snow Forest Erosion Control Project and completing road and trail maintenance and fuel reduction projects. Implementation of the BMPs was accomplished by conducting BMP training and including BMPs in every NEPA project that had hydrologic input. BMP monitoring was accomplished by identifying needs in the NEPA process; implementation monitoring was completed by contracting officer representatives or other Forest Service personnel on the project site as the work was being completed.

Effectiveness monitoring is completed through annual BMP monitoring of randomly selected, recently completed projects and concurrent monitoring in which sites are selected based on management interest in specific ongoing projects. Effectiveness monitoring is designed to evaluate how well the Forest and Region implement BMPs and how effectively the BMPs control water pollution from National Forest lands. The summary and results of the monitoring are located in the [SBNF 2008 Best Management Practices Region 5 Evaluation Program Water Quality Monitoring Report 2008](#). Methods for dealing with the identified problems have been established and are currently being implemented.

The Forest Hydrologist was also an active LMP monitoring team-member and attended all of the project field reviews discussed in Section 4 of this report. Additionally, a staff member of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board joined the team for one day of BMP/LMP monitoring this year, and the concurrent monitoring was very effective at promoting better understanding of Forest projects and monitoring standards. BMP effectiveness monitoring completed for these additional projects will be included in the 2009 BMP report.

Currently the SBNF is party to three Clean Water Act Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDLs) implementation plans: Big Bear Lake nutrient TMDL, Lake Elsinore/Canyon Lake nutrient TMDL, and the Middle Santa Ana pathogen TMDL. In FY 2009, each TMDL implementation plan required water quality monitoring throughout the applicable watersheds. Requirements will persist in each of these areas for the foreseeable future.

The State of California Water Boards released their most recent [Clean Water Act Section 305b Report "Water Quality Assessment of the Condition of California Coastal Waters and Wadeable Streams."](#) This program in the Lahontan, Colorado and Santa Ana Regions are discussed on pages 67-69 of the report.

Conclusions

In the past three years, implementation of BMPs have been improving on the SBNF (FY06=78%, FY07=87%, FY08=91%). Effectiveness protocols have shown success at varying levels (FY06=78%, FY07=97%, FY08=80%).

High effectiveness ratings in FY07 were attributed to increased training and interaction with District personnel, as well as increased coordination with Forest Plan monitoring, continued regulatory interactions with the Santa Ana and Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Boards, and lack of precipitation.

The lower (80%) effectiveness rating in FY08 is attributed predominantly to the random selection of Forest Service Road 1N09. Interaction has occurred with engineering staff and

designs for removing the road bed from Deer Creek are being worked on. In FY09 and beyond, additional funding for this legacy road issue will be pursued.

Continued interaction with all districts throughout the planning process for fuels treatments have improved communication and understanding of the importance of limiting sediment and erosion from fuels treatment sites. The addition of the Lahontan Timber Waivers has put BMP monitoring to the forefront of concerns on the Mountaintop Ranger District. The multiple TMDLs, including the Lake Elsinore nutrient TMDL, have made all other ranger districts aware of the importance of transferring the design criteria in our NEPA documents into the contracts and stressing BMP implementation during pre-work meetings with contractors.

Recommendations

- Continue training and interaction with district staff throughout planning process for fuels treatments.
- Continue combining BMP and LMP monitoring field trips.
- Continue to promote concurrent monitoring with regional water quality control boards.

Roads Monitoring (Forest Goal 3.1)

Monitoring

During June 2009, the monitoring team evaluated five NFS roads as part of BMP monitoring (1N86, 3N34, 2N37 on the Mountaintop District, and 4S01, 5S06 on the San Jacinto District). Results and recommendations will be included in the BMPEP Report at the website link in Water Quality section above.

Air Quality Monitoring (Forest Goal 3.2)

Under the Regional air quality monitoring program, a sampling station at the Converse Fire Station monitors the air quality near the San Gorgonio Wilderness Class 1 air shed. This station is part of the IMPROVE national monitoring network. More information may be found at the IMPROVE web site at the following URL's:

Raw data: <http://vista.cira.colostate.edu/improve/Data/data.htm>

Reports: http://vista.cira.colostate.edu/improve/Publications/improve_reports.htm



Biological Resource Condition (Forest Goal 6.2)

The Forest participated in a number of programs and activities to improve habitat for wildlife and plant species. These activities are described in the [SBNF 2008 Accomplishment Report for Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants](#) (WFRP Report).

Threatened and Endangered Species Monitoring – Biological Opinion Adjustments to LMP Environmental Baseline

Monitoring

The Forest Biologist provided an updated summary of species monitoring and monitoring of corrective actions and design criteria required by current biological opinions.

Results

All monitoring that is currently required has been completed and a report will be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) this year. [The T&E Species Monitoring Spreadsheet](#) describes the actions and accomplishments completed through 2007. The update of the T&E Species Monitoring Spreadsheet is underway for 2008 and 2009 and will be incorporated into the FY 2009 LMP Monitoring Report. Monitoring requirements are being updated through new site-specific biological opinions. These will be updated on a priority basis.

Conclusions

The threatened and endangered species and habitat protection monitoring program is working well in most areas—a process is in place to update procedures based on what is learned, and changes are expected through the updated consultations with the FWS.

Recommendations

- Continue required monitoring and maintenance of protection structures (barriers and signing, etc.)
- Continue to fund resource patrols.
- As operational plans are developed for recreational sites and areas, ensure institutional memory of problem resolution by making sure to document protection measures used in the past (whether on an annual, periodic, or one-time basis). These may be documented in the INFRA database for each site.

Balancing Needs for New infrastructure with Land Ownership Adjustment (Forest Goal 7.1)

The Forest's Land Ownership and Adjustment Program is very active in aiding other programs to meet their LMP goals. Partners, including one conservancy and three land trusts, continue to work along with the Forest to identify opportunities well in advance of appropriations. As a result the Forest has been able blend direct purchases, donations, exchanges, mitigations and right-of-way protection as a way of meeting land adjustment needs or rights in non-federal land in a timely manner. The recent economic situation has favored the maintenance of open space values and willing land owners to convey their land to the public trust. The inventory has been sufficiently large to allow the Forest to focus on lands rich in T&E, water sources, riparian

habitats, and enlarge the number of natural and utilitarian amenities to each acquisition. For example, in FY 2008, the Forest acquired 1,143 acres along Yucaipa Ridge featuring rich wildlife habitat (Golden Eagle, deer and mountain lion) and perennial Camp Creek. The 289 acre Heart Bar purchase included Wildhorse Creek. The 320 acre Sugarbush purchase in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument brought the remaining 70 acres of the historic Donna Cee Mine under Federal control for surface reclamation. The National Park Service and Trust for Public Lands is assisting the Forest in acquiring lands in the Santa Ana River Headwaters. The Pacific Crest Trail, Onyx Peak and Tayles Hidden Acres are among nine parcels affecting three significant community watersheds. The donation of acquisition dollars and land has become significant in recent years following a period of large projects on and off NFS land. Similarly, private development at the interface has provided set-aside acreage available to the Forest from local government entities.

IV. Part 3 LMP Monitoring - Projects and On-Going Activities

In accordance with the methodology described in the monitoring guide, approximately ten percent of new projects or on-going activity sites for each type of activity were randomly selected for review. These projects and activities are listed in Table 3 in the appendix of this report. This section describes the projects or activities and findings of the monitoring team.

Cleghorn Windmill Testing (08-LMP-Special Uses-1)

Monitoring

This project was developed under the authority of the 2005 Energy Act. A decision memo was signed in 2008, authorizing placement of three meteorological sampling sites on the crest of Cleghorn Ridge for a period of up to three years to analyze the feasibility for generating wind power in the Cajon Pass. The 50 meter towers are for data collection purposes only and will not be permanent infrastructure. The monitoring team reviewed the decision and visited the site on July 8, 2009.

The project has been successful in minimizing ground disturbance and implementing project design criteria. Materials for the towers were required to be hand-carried from the nearby road to prevent construction of additional spur roads. The only ground disturbances are the stakes required to support the towers. Heritage surveys resulted in one tower site not being implemented and one tower site being moved to a different location. The project proponent funds biological monitoring for bird and bat mortality/behavior. The District Biologist has developed a monitoring form for documenting the mortality surveys. Markers are in place to warn OHV users of potential hazards associated with the sites. The tower at site #3 has collapsed once but been repaired and is functioning again.

Conclusions

The project is consistent with LMP Goal 4.1b to administer renewable energy resource development while protecting ecosystem health. However, there is currently no national Forest Service guidance to assist with screening renewable wind energy projects, so it is possible that other Districts/Forests may be taking different approaches in reviewing this type of project.

Recommendations

- National guidance is needed to assist in the screening process for renewable wind energy projects. The Westwide Energy Corridor project provided a good model to identify areas for energy development.

Deep Creek/ Green Valley Fuels Reduction and Forest Health (08-LMP-Manage Vegetation-1)

Monitoring

The monitoring team visited Units 18, 102/103, and 260 in the project area on June 1, 2009. On May 22, 2009, monitoring team members also visited Unit 18 with Chad Hanson of the John Muir Project who participated in the objection resolution process under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA).

The LMP consistency checklist was completed and signed by the Ranger. During project layout, there was some difficulty in establishing unit boundaries, but the issues had been addressed and boundaries had been well-flagged. Encroachments had been reported to the Engineering staff.

One of the agreements in the objection resolution was a nine inch diameter breast height (dbh) limit for green tree removal in Unit 18 due to the presence of a California spotted owl nest tree in the defense zone of the only evacuation route for the community of Green Valley Lake. The treatment in Unit 18 was accomplished during the fall of 2008. Additional precautions were taken to transport the removed material away from the nest stand for chipping. Implementation achieved the specified requirements for snag retention and down woody material. Operators complied with limited operating periods due to nesting owls. There were no rare plant issues in this treatment unit.



The team examined a helicopter landing in Units 102/103. The landing was located in a Treatment Level 1 defense zone. Embedded logs had been placed for OHV control and appeared to be effective in preventing the establishment of unauthorized routes. Wood chip cover was appropriate on the landing and extra effort had been taken to spread the chips where needed. The project leader also noted that use of chip cover during treatment had been effective in preventing erosion.

The helicopter landing in Unit 260 was also covered with an effective bed of wood chips. Some tree planting has occurred on the edges of the landing. Complete rehabilitation has not occurred yet because the landing will be utilized again soon for another treatment in the vicinity.

Conclusions

The project is consistent with the LMP long term Goals 1.1, 1.2 and 1.2.1 to limit loss of life and property, restore forest health where alteration of natural fire regimes have put human and natural resources values at risk, and to reduce the potential for widespread losses of montane conifer forests caused by severe, extensive, stand replacing fires.

Treatment in Unit 18 met project objectives and was consistent with the objector's expectations for treatment in a spotted owl nest stand adjacent to a community evacuation route.

The Deep Creek/ Green Valley fuels project is nearly complete and should be fully implemented by the end of FY 2009, although some activities from BAER and the Butler II/Slide project will continue in the area. Staff has identified needs for some follow-up treatments which would require NEPA. The transition between staff leads during implementation has been difficult but was ultimately resolved well.

The District Botanist found that the occurrence of the San Bernardino jewel flower, a Forest Service sensitive plant species, was higher than expected after the Slide Fire. Design criteria for the Butler II/Slide and roadside hazard tree projects will be reviewed.

Recommendations

- Use of chip cover on landings during treatment should be continued.
- Identify follow-up treatments for a new NEPA project.

Skyline Shaded Fuelbreak (08-LMP-Manage Vegetation-2)

Monitoring

The decision for the Skyline Shaded Fuelbreak treatment was made in 2004 and the project is essentially complete. On June 1, 2009, the monitoring team visited Units 1-7 with the primary focus on Unit 4 where work was accomplished during FY 2008.

The 2N10 forest road served as the major skid trail for the project. Meadows were excluded from treatment. The team observed a landing and found no sign of cheatgrass. A ridge top landing had been rehabilitated with soil decompaction and a bed of wood chips.

In Unit 4, the project design criteria for wildlife and recreation had been very effective. Wildlife biologists worked ahead of the equipment to monitor for the southern rubber boa and this procedure worked well. To prevent the creation of unauthorized routes, contractors were required to leave a strip of vegetation along the roadsides and to embed logs in strategic locations. The team was impressed with how well the logs had been embedded and was informed that the contractor had the right kind of equipment to accomplish the task. The team was also informed that there are several traffic collisions each year on 2N10 between vehicles and mountain bikes, so it may be safer to locate a mountain bike trail on the fuelbreak in the future.

Conclusions

The project is consistent with the LMP long term Goals 1.1, 1.2 and 1.2.1 to limit loss of life and property, restore forest health where alteration of natural fire regimes have put human and natural resources values at risk, and to reduce the potential for widespread losses of montane conifer forests caused by severe, extensive, stand replacing fires.

Recommendations

- Utilize remaining hours on the contract to have the operator embed additional logs in strategic locations.
- In future implementation contracting, specify the desired end result of vegetation strips and embedded logs along roadsides, but do not specify the equipment that must be used.
- Re-evaluate the project area for snags in falling distance of the road.
- Conduct LMP consistency checks for older projects with current implementation.

North Fork of the San Jacinto Healthy Forest Project (08-LMP-Manage Vegetation-3)

Monitoring

On June 4, 2009, the monitoring team visited the North Fork project to observe the results of ground based operations in Unit 32, the Metate Flats landing, and a helicopter landing that serviced Units 3, 4, 5 and 48.

Within Unit 32, the team observed a landing, skid trails, and a stream crossing. The project has achieved its objectives in this unit for improving firefighter access and reducing a fire's resistance to control. Within the RCA buffer, a 16 inch dbh limit had been correctly implemented for live and dead tree removal. For limbing of trees, the District had been raising crowns to 8 feet, but learned that 12 feet is better to reduce the risk of fire moving from the ground to tree crowns because of drooping limbs. The District also found that the use of geotextile cloth had been very effective in protecting an historic roadbed. Unauthorized OHV use has not become an issue in this area.

In the Metate Flats landing, the team observed a situation where the contractor had expanded the boundary beyond the initial designation. The District had required the contractor to mitigate the situation with a culvert and fill material in order to protect resources. The mitigation ultimately protected the resources better than before.

From the helicopter service landing, the team observed an area that had been treated with a 16 inch dbh limit for live and dead tree removal, in accordance with the HFRA objection resolution for the project. Treatment also included thinning from below and removal of brush below the dripline of trees. This area (Units 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 49 and 50) contained 60-70% mortality prior to treatment. The treatment had also achieved its target for down woody material.

Conclusions

The project is consistent with the LMP long term Goals 1.1, 1.2 and 1.2.1 to limit loss of life and property, restore forest health where alteration of natural fire regimes have put human and natural resources values at risk, and to reduce the potential for widespread losses of montane conifer forests caused by severe, extensive, stand replacing fires.

Recommendations

- When limbing trees, lift crowns to 12 feet instead of 8 feet to counter the drooping effect of remaining lower limbs.
- Clearly post boundaries of landings and send daily monitors if needed.
- Use geotextile cloth where needed to protect historic roadbeds.

Forest Falls Fuel Reduction (08-LMP-Manage Vegetation-4)

Monitoring

The Decision Memo for the Barton Flats and Forest Falls Hazard Tree and Fuel Reduction Project was signed in 2003 under the authority of the 1989 Land Management Plan. The decision included an appendix of design criteria to be used during project implementation. These included BMPs and prescriptions for air and visual quality, protection of wildlife and plant populations and habitat, heritage resources, hydrology, weeds and post-treatment rehabilitation. The monitoring team reviewed a 30 acre parcel that was treated in the spring of 2009. Although it does not meet the project selection criteria because it was not treated in 2008, this error was not discovered until late in the process, so the team decided to proceed with the monitoring. The parcel is located along Valley of the Falls Boulevard, just outside the community of Forest Falls.

The project team had reviewed the decision for consistency with the 2005 LMP and utilized the current LMP standards for snag retention and down woody material. A 12 inch dbh limit on live

tree removal was also included in the contract, which was administered by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Because NRCS uses a different system of flagging, it was confusing to the Forest staff as well as the contractor. There was also some difficulty communicating with the contractor about limited operating periods and not putting piles in ephemeral drainages, but these issues were resolved. Biological and archaeological monitors from the District worked on site with the contractor during implementation to ensure compliance with project design criteria and LMP standards. Woody material was lopped and scattered away from the road. The contract specified a maximum depth for wood chips and this was followed. Archeologists flagged areas to avoid, including an historic lodge building. Logs were also placed to discourage new mountain bike trails.

Conclusions

The project is consistent with the LMP long term Goals 1.1, 1.2 and 1.2.1 to limit loss of life and property, restore forest health where alteration of natural fire regimes have put human and natural resources values at risk, and to reduce the potential for widespread losses of montane conifer forests caused by severe, extensive, stand replacing fires. The project is also consistent with the San Bernardino Front Country Place program emphasis stating community protection from wildland fire is of the highest priority.

Recommendations

- Document LMP consistency checks.
- Continue to use down log placement to discourage creation of unauthorized mountain bike trails.
- In future NRCS partnerships coordinate the flagging color during project planning.

Bonita Vista Broadcast Burn Project (08-LMP-Prescribed Fire-1)

Monitoring

On June 4, 2009, the monitoring team visited Unit 4 of the Bonita Vista project. A prescribed broadcast burn was implemented on this unit in May 2008 on approximately 120 acres within the 1,000 acre unit. The project's decision memo was signed in 2004 under the authority of the 1989 LMP.

The burn was effective on 60-80 acres in the lower end of the burn unit where hand burning was used. However, the area treated with the helitorch was not entirely effective and will need to be treated again. Helitorch treatment in chemise vegetation was effective, while the redshank did not burn as desired. Overall in the 120 acre burn area, vegetation consumption was approximately 30% which is on the lowest end of the 30-70% desired consumption range. Weather conditions during the burn were the primary factor. Design criteria for the Quino checkerspot butterfly have also proven difficult to implement and have prevented one critical canyon area from being treated.

Prior to implementation, the District convened all of its resource specialists to review the project decision and design criteria with current LMP standards. However, no consistency check with the current LMP was documented. Although the burn plan specified a 200 foot riparian area buffer, the team updated it to use a 300 foot buffer instead. Three archaeological sites were flagged prior

to implementation and avoided. Quino host plants were flagged and were not ignited nor consumed in backing fire due to a holding line placed above the host plant area.

Conclusions

The project is consistent with the LMP long term Goals 1.1, 1.2 and 1.2.1 to limit loss of life and property, restore forest health where alteration of natural fire regimes have put human and natural resources values at risk, and to reduce the potential for widespread losses of montane conifer forests caused by severe, extensive, stand replacing fires. The project is also consistent with the Garner Valley Place program emphasis stating community protection from wildland fire is of the highest priority.

Recommendations

- Any future treatments under this project decision should be reviewed and documented for changed circumstances and consistency with the current LMP.
- Reinitiate consultation for Quino checkerspot butterfly for critical areas within the project area that are still in need of treatment.
- Complete an Environmental Assessment as soon as practical to provide treatment of critical defense zone areas which could not be treated under the current project due to Quino.



Lone Pine Canyon Broadcast Burn (08-LMP-Prescribed Fire-2)

Monitoring

The Lone Pine Canyon Fuels Reduction Project was authorized in 2004 with a Decision Memo under the authority of the 1989 LMP. On July 8, 2009, the monitoring team and the Forest Leadership Team visited Units 4 and 5 which were broadcast burned in May 2008.

Prior to the burn, mechanical treatment was done on the ridge tops for containment purposes. The Burn Plan called for implementation above 90% fuel moisture; actual implementation occurred at 93% fuel moisture. Overall, the burn project achieved its intended results with a vegetation consumption rate of 40-60% across the landscape and project design criteria were effective. In Unit 5, the objective was a backing fire. The burn accomplished approximately 150 acres in Unit 5, but the fire spotted into a canyon bottom and resulted in a higher consumption rate there. However, the canyon bottom is recovering well. In Unit 4, the burn was ignited behind the designated shooting area. If any future fires originate in the shooting area, they will be easier to contain as a result of this project.

Operational controls were effective at protecting the environment as intended. Fire was excluded from known heritage sites. Soils were assessed along the fuelbreak for slope and masticator use and any rutted areas have been restored. Riparian areas were lined to protect them and sensitive plant species were flagged and avoided.

Conclusions

This project improves protection for the communities of Lytle Creek and Wrightwood. It is consistent with the LMP long term Goals 1.1, 1.2 and 1.2.1 to limit loss of life and property, restore forest health where alteration of natural fire regimes have put human and natural resources values at risk, and to reduce the potential for widespread losses of montane conifer forests caused by severe, extensive, stand replacing fires. The project is also consistent with the Lytle Creek Place program emphasis stating community protection from wildland fire is of the highest priority.

Recommendations

- Any future treatments under this project decision should be reviewed and documented for changed circumstances and consistency with the current LMP.

Angelus Oaks Pile Burning (08-LMP-Prescribed Fire-3)

Monitoring

A Decision Memo for the Angelus Oaks Community Defense Project was signed in 2004 under the authority of the 1989 LMP. On July 6, 2009 the monitoring team visited a site within the project area where pile burning occurred in 2008.

Pile burning at this location was done while snow was on the ground and had achieved the desired consumption of piled woody material. A resource advisor had been present during implementation which increases costs but is worthwhile in working with the contractor. Resource protection measures included the retention of piles if they were not contributing to fuel loading in order to provide prey base habitat for California spotted owl. Riparian area avoidance and

snag retention followed the current LMP standards. Rock outcrops were flagged and avoided for the southern rubber boa. Archaeological sites were also flagged and avoided. There were no botanical issues but the team did observe cheat grass in the area, although it was not possible to determine if it was introduced by project activities or if it had already been present in the area due to the adjacent road.

Conclusion

This project improves protection for the community of Angelus Oaks. It is consistent with the LMP long term Goals 1.1, 1.2 and 1.2.1 to limit loss of life and property, restore forest health where alteration of natural fire regimes have put human and natural resources values at risk, and to reduce the potential for widespread losses of montane conifer forests caused by severe, extensive, stand replacing fires. The project is also consistent with the San Bernardino Front Country Place program emphasis stating community protection from wildland fire is of the highest priority.

Recommendations

- Ensure piles are placed a proper distance from leave trees.
- Any future treatments under this project decision should be reviewed and documented for changed circumstances and consistency with the current LMP.
- Ensure contractors are washing equipment prior to moving equipment to the project site.

Barton Flats Pile Burning (08-LMP-Prescribed Fire-4)

Monitoring

The Decision Memo for the Barton Flats and Forest Falls Hazard Tree and Fuel Reduction Project was signed in 2003 under the authority of the 1989 Land Management Plan. The decision included an appendix of design criteria to be used during project implementation. On June 1, 2009, the monitoring team observed the results of pile burning along Jenk's Lake Road, adjacent to the Barton Recreation Residence Tract.

The pile burning was accomplished within the burn plan prescription. However, some piles were not burned because they were not visible under snow and the weather conditions prevented a higher consumption rate which would have been preferable. The burn made progress on meeting the desired condition for the area. Follow-up work on pile burning is possible but low priority due to the fuels treatments surrounding the area. Implementation meets the visual quality objective of not being visually evident that pile burning occurred, but is not meeting the objective of creating an open, park-like condition.

Resource protection measures were effective. Limited operating periods and other restrictions for protection of California spotted owl were followed. The area was flagged for botanical resources and those areas were avoided during implementation. Piles were not burned in riparian areas and any piles that had been created in such areas were moved out prior to burning.

Conclusions

This project is consistent with the LMP long term Goals 1.1, 1.2 and 1.2.1 to limit loss of life and property, restore forest health where alteration of natural fire regimes have put human and

natural resources values at risk, and to reduce the potential for widespread losses of montane conifer forests caused by severe, extensive, stand replacing fires.

Recommendations

- Any future treatments under this project decision should be reviewed and documented for changed circumstances and consistency with the current LMP.

Tree of Heaven Eradication (08-LMP-Invasive Species-1)

Monitoring

In 2006, a Decision Memo authorized treatment to eradicate tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), an invasive species, in Applewhite Picnic Area located in Lytle Creek Canyon. The monitoring team and the Forest Leadership Team visited the picnic area on July 8, 2009 to observe results of implementation.

Two treatment applications were performed in 2008 and a third application in May 2009. The first application treated approximately 1,000 trees on one-half acre. A certified herbicide applicator used Triclopyr ester (Garlon 4) in a foliar application utilizing a backpack sprayer. Follow-up monitoring indicated 95% effectiveness after one month. The second application re-treated the same area and treated the southern stand in the picnic area for the first time. Monitoring indicated 94% effectiveness in the first year but re-sprouting from the extensive established root systems decreased the appearance of the effectiveness over the long term. Effectiveness decreased to as low as 65% by the second year after treatment on previous application. Although effectiveness has decreased over time, the team is encouraged that multiple treatments over time will eradicate the tree of heaven. Eradication of this species is a long-term commitment. Once the root system is completely killed, preventing re-establishment of the population from the seed source should be relatively easy to accomplish by pulling new seedlings

Resource protection and safety measures were implemented and effective. Personal protective equipment was used by the applicators. Riparian areas were avoided. Treatment was done in early morning hours to eliminate wind drift and no treatment was done during rain. During application, the area was closed to the public and sprinklers were shut off. The area remained closed three days after treatment which caused minor public complaints about the inconvenience, but met the safety requirements for herbicide use.

Conclusions

Invasive species are one of the Chief's Four Threats to NFS lands. This project is consistent with LMP Goal 2.1 to reverse the trend of increasing loss of natural resource values due to invasive species. Furthermore, it is implementing the LMP strategy for invasive species eradication and control (IS1: Prevent the introduction of new invaders, conduct early treatment of new infestations, and contain and control established infestations), and Appendix M (National Forests of Southern California Weed Management Strategy).

Recommendations

- In future projects, consider a larger project area for treatment outside the picnic area and campground.

- Compare effectiveness of the three different herbicides and the application methods authorized under the project decision.
- Ensure that herbicide application is applied to cut stumps immediately after cutting.

Highway 18 Reforestation (08-LMP-Reforestation-1)

Monitoring

The Highway 18 Reforestation project of 2008 was completed as part of the Old Fire Fuels and Reforestation Decision Memo, under the authority of the 2005 Land Management Plan. The LMP monitoring team visited Units 4 and 5 on June 1, 2008.

The reforestation units are located on the Mountaintop District on the north side of Highway 18 in the vicinity of Heap's Peak. Montane coniferous forest was burned here in the 2003 Old Fire. Burned trees that were hazardous to motorists and those that would affect the future reforestation were removed near the highway in 2005 and 2006 under an agreement with NRCS. The reforestation units include locations where burned trees were removed and also where burned trees were retained.

In locations where burned trees were retained, burned black oak tops have begun to fall over providing a down log component to portions of the site. Common lizards and birds are utilizing down logs and snags and caterpillars and butterflies were observed on post fire vegetation. There is some natural recruitment of ponderosa pine post fire. Six years after the wildfire, the vegetation on these sites consists of numerous resprouting black oaks, a few unburned ponderosa pines, large densities of bracken fern, deer brush and coffeeberry and native grasses. Cheatgrass and tumble mustard occur in low densities where native ferns and shrubs are present; weed densities are higher in locations with less native shrub cover. Two stands of black locust, an aggressive non-native tree present on site prior to the fire, have re-sprouted to a height of 15 feet.

This location provides habitat for the southern rubber boa, a state listed and Forest Service Region 5 sensitive snake. The project design criteria provides for protection of this species by retention of nine down logs per acre (S4), lop and scatter or leaving slash piles as prey substrate, and protection of rock outcrops, springs, seeps and riparian areas from disturbance. These mitigation measures were implemented during the reforestation project and were effective. A demonstration session with contractors about rubber boa identification and protection was especially effective. Other resource protection measures included flagging and avoidance of archaeological sites and checking contractor vehicles for cleaning to remove noxious weeds prior to entering the project area.

In spring of 2008, a combination of one-year-old, containerized, ponderosa and sugar pine seedlings were planted. The planting prescription called for a planting density of 190 to 300 trees per acre. Seedlings were planted at a density of 220 seedlings per acre by crews under contract.

Planting density was completed as prescribed. Seedling survival is estimated at 50 percent at this time. Culturists are considering completing release in 2009, meaning that a 2-5 foot diameter of encroaching vegetation around each seedling would be scraped away to reduce competition for the seedlings. The "release" of the seedlings is included in the existing project decision document.

Conclusions

The Highway 18 reforestation project is consistent with the LMP long term Goal 1.2.1 “to where possible, restore severely burned forest ecosystems.” Planting both ponderosa and sugar pine is consistent with the goal to “encourage tree recruitment that contains a species mix more like pre-settlement composition.” The design criteria were effective in protecting sensitive habitat during reforestation activities.

Recommendations

- Finalize release scraping diameter as per regional office recommendations and review NEPA document specifications to complete release as necessary.
- Implement design criteria in existing NEPA decision for southern rubber boa during release of pine seedlings.
- Discuss future manual removal of black locust trees with District wildlife biologist. If necessary, amend decision document to include removal and any necessary mitigation.
- Cut and remove black locust trees within reforestation units.
- Continue to monitor pine seedling survival incorporating follow-up practices as necessary.



Highway 18 Snow Play (08-LMP-Rec-1)

Monitoring

A concentrated use snow play area exists along Highway 18 from Snowdrift snow tubing park to Lakeview Point. A concentrated use area is an undeveloped area where maintenance and management time and money are invested, because recreation use leaves evident impacts, including litter, vandalism and/or soil compaction (LMP, Part 2, p. 31). The monitoring team visited the Highway 18 snow play area on June 3, 2009.

On a busy day in the winter, this area may have several hundred people engaging in snow play. The gently sloping terrain and open vegetation conditions make it very attractive for sledding, tubing and walking. Some people park in the Snow Valley ski resort lot and walk along the shoulders of Highway 18 to access these areas while other park on the shoulders of the highway. California Highway Patrol enforces its prohibition of parking on shoulder by issuing tickets and having cars towed away. Caltrans has also placed berms along the shoulders to discourage

parking there. A federally threatened plant species that grows on some of the older berms are protected from disturbance. No toilets are provided in this area for visitors but Snow Valley allows visitors to use its restrooms. Visitor use also generates garbage which volunteer groups clean up in the spring of each year. Minor impacts to vegetative cover and soils are also apparent due to the heavy visitor use.

Conclusions

The Recreation Participation strategy (REC 3) in the LMP is to identify and analyze existing and potential dispersed use, including snow play, and to identify areas where that use is consistent with resource protection and public safety, and mitigate or eliminate problems over time. The monitoring team considered possible options for mitigated or eliminating problems at this snow play area. One possibility is to provide portable toilets, garbage cans and signage at the Snow Valley ski area pullout. Another possibility is to designate a snow play area off of 2N97 just after it turns off Highway 18 such that there would be a safe area to park without walking along a busy highway.

Adaptive management by the Mountaintop Ranger District and its partners (CHP, Caltrans and Snow Valley ski area) has responded to the visitor use issues in this CUA. However, management of this area faces mounting challenges as use increases. The management described here is generally consistent with the Arrowhead Place Program Emphasis in the revised LMP.

Recommendations

- Continue to analyze snow play areas to ensure public safety and to meet resource management objectives.
- When considering any proposed projects within the Highway 18 Snow Play Concentrated Use Area, ensure consistency with the revised LMP.
- Continue to provide opportunity for snow play and explore funding sources for signing and bathroom facilities.

Big Bear Discovery Center (08-LMP-Rec-2)

Monitoring

On June 2, 2009, the monitoring team visited the Big Bear Discovery Center. The Center opened in 1998 and is managed in partnership with the SBNFA. It provides an excellent visitor experience with informational materials, interpretive displays, nature talks, guided nature tours, food service, and a gift store. Additionally, an outdoor amphitheater offers a venue for interpretive presentations and musical performances. Annually, approximately 170,000 people visit the Center.

The Center is functioning well operationally in many respects. It utilizes a sewer system and commercial refuse and recycling services. Hardened walking surfaces are working well to reduce visitor impacts. However, there are areas for improvement. The cold winter environment is taking its toll and several pipes and valves have been replaced and protected from future freezes. The facility is also starting to show its age. Facility components such as doors and faucets are wearing out and need replacing. Pavement in the parking areas and entrance road is also cracked and needs sealing or repaving. Vegetation degradation was beginning to develop due to overflow parking but this has been corrected through the placement of boulders. An undercut has

developed on the down slope side of Highway 38 due to runoff. There is also a user-created path between the Center and the amphitheater that should be fenced off or bounded so it does not grow wider. One corner of a retaining wall is losing support. Bird boxes need maintenance. Some trees near the Center would benefit from watering because of the hardened landscaping surrounding them.

There is a completed NEPA decision for amphitheater expansion and there is a site plan for expanding the stage building and the terraces. The decision limits the number of night time productions and requires noise monitoring, and these measures have been followed. A small astronomical observatory has also been planned and approved at the site.

There is no written operation plan for the Center which may be helpful to document and coordinate the operations as well as establishing a plan to address deficiencies.

Conclusions

The ongoing activity at the Big Bear Discovery Center is consistent with LMP Goal 3.1 to manage recreation in a natural setting by providing for public use and natural resource protection.

Recommendations

- Utilize an archaeological monitor for any ground disturbance done on the site.
- Consider developing an operations plan for the Center.
- Lights on the building should be fully shielded to reduce impacts to the night sky.
- Operational and repair costs should be included in annual budgets and program of work.

Doble Trail Camp (08-LMP-Rec-3)

Monitoring

On June 2, 2009, the monitoring team visited the Doble trail camp in the Big Bear Place. It is located along the Pacific Crest Trail and consists of a fire ring, picnic table, corral, toilet, and a spring development.

The trail camp was generally in good condition. The toilet had been replaced two years ago. Repairs to the fenceline protecting the meadow have been completed. The Biological Opinion for pebble plains requires that the access road be used only for maintenance of the camp. However, the monitoring team observed a trail crew using the road for access to the trail.

Conclusions

The ongoing activity at Doble trail camp is consistent with LMP Goal 3.1 to manage recreation in a natural setting by providing for public use and natural resource protection. Actions required and implemented in the 2001 Biological Opinion are improving the pebble plain habitat at this location.

Recommendations

- To comply with the 2001 Biological Opinion, remind Forest Service personnel providing maintenance to this site or other sites/trails in the vicinity that vehicular access to this site is not permitted.

- Maintain meadow protection fencing.

Lobo-Oso Group Campground (08-LMP-Rec-4)



Monitoring

The monitoring team visited the Lobo-Oso Group Campgrounds in the San Gorgonio Place on June 2, 2009. Recreation in this campground is an ongoing activity under the 2005 LMP. The site consists of two group camps, Oso and Lobo, and both are operated by the same concessionaire. These are the largest group camps on the Forest. Oso Camp can accommodate 100 people, while Lobo Camp can accommodate 75. The camps are usually occupied on 15 weekends throughout the summer.

The camps showed significant improvement since the last visit by the District Recreation Officer and are generally in good condition. The camps obtain water through the Barton water system and have not had issues with water supply. The entrance gate is locked when the camp is not in use, so there are no issues with general public use. There are no visual, biological, botanical, or archaeological issues with the campgrounds. However, there are several issues with conditions of the facilities. The entrance road is in poor condition and needs to be completely rebuilt. Some of the wooden benches in the amphitheater are weak and splintering. None of the facilities are accessible for people with disabilities. Several of the grills are too close together and should be relocated.

Conclusions

The ongoing activity at the Oso and Lobo group camps is consistent with LMP Goal 3.1 to manage recreation in a natural setting by providing for public use and natural resource protection. Management of the site is fulfilling the program emphasis for the San Gorgonio Place which calls for maintenance and improvement of recreation infrastructure. By providing facilities for large groups of campers, they can be accommodated and the natural environment protected from more dispersed activity.

Recommendations

- Consider seeking funding through the Capital Improvement Program and/or Granger-Thye Act funds to address facility deficiencies.

Marion Mountain Campground (08-LMP-Rec-5)

Monitoring

The Marion Mountain Campground is a developed campground located in the Idyllwild Place. It was built in 1953-54 and provides campsites equipped with a fire ring and picnic table, and two restroom facilities. The campground is open from mid-May to mid-October. The monitoring team visited the site on June 5, 2009.

The campground is jointly managed by a campground host and Forest Service staff. This is a very cost-effective way of providing visitor services and maintaining the cleanliness and safety of the site. However, the host is responsible for three campgrounds and the host site is located at Alandale station, so the host cannot maintain a full-time presence. The campground has one restroom building that is accessible, but needs an apron/sidewalk from the building to the road in order to be fully accessible. The other restroom facility is a non-significant historical building. It is in good condition considering its age but ideally should be replaced with an accessible restroom. The water system is also functioning adequately but is old and would benefit from a replacement. There are two dumpsters in the site being emptied once a week and sanitation requirements are being met. There are no natural resource issues with the campground. It is close to a California spotted owl protected activity center but poses no conflicts.

Conclusions

The ongoing activity at the Marion Mountain Campground is consistent with LMP Goal 3.1 to manage recreation in a natural setting by providing for public use and natural resource protection. Management of the site is fulfilling the program emphasis for the Idyllwild Place which calls for improvement of developed recreation sites.

Recommendations

- Consider replacement of the older restroom facility and the addition of an apron/sidewalk on the newer restroom facility.
- Explore opportunities for campground hosts at other campgrounds that currently do not have one.

Forest Falls Recreation Residence Tract (08-LMP-Rec-6)

Monitoring

The Forest Falls Recreation Residence Tract consists of 15 recreation residences near the community of Forest Falls. Each residence is managed under a special use permit. A consistency review and continuance determination for the tract was conducted and a decision was made to reissue 20 year permits for these residences in January 2009. The monitoring team visited the tract on July 6, 2009.

All 15 cabins are in compliance with their permits. The cabins are well maintained and the tract does a good job of conforming to the natural environment. Permit conditions require cabins to maintain their historic character. There are no water resource issues with the tract as all cabins operate on a County permitted water system. Due its presence within a California spotted owl nesting territory, nearly all of the tract has a limited operating period for certain activities. There is also an operating plan for southern rubber boa, requiring permittees to provide escape methods for boas if permittees replace their water tanks. The access road for the tract is the permittees responsibility, but they have not organized to address its maintenance. Consequently, the road is not being well maintained.

Conclusions

The permitted Forest Falls recreation residences are consistent with LMP Goal 3.1 to manage recreation in a natural setting by providing for public use and natural resource protection. Furthermore, management of the tract is in compliance with the strategy for recreation special use authorizations (REC 5).

Recommendations

- The permit administrator should work with the tract permittees to set up a road maintenance association.

Cahuilla Tewanet Overlook Deck Replacement (08-LMP-Rec-7)

Monitoring

In 2007, the San Jacinto District authorized replacement of the Cahuilla Tewanet Overlook deck, located off Highway 74 in the National Monument Place. This was done under the authority of the 2005 LMP. The monitoring team visited the site on June 5, 2009.

The Cahuilla Tewanet Interpretive Site and Overlook provides a unique visitor experience offering spectacular views of Santa Rosa Mountain and Deep Canyon as well as interpretive displays on the Native American heritage and biological resources of the area. Reconstruction of the deck involved reducing the size from 1,600 sq. feet down to 1,000 sq. feet, and sealing the parking lot and walking path. Deck materials utilized recycled plastic boards and recycled steel. Although the plastic boards are initially more expensive than wooden boards, they are more durable than wood. The only ground disturbance of the project was the reinforcement of the deck footings. There were no botanical issues involved with the project. Protection measures for archaeology and for bighorn sheep were incorporated in the project design and implementation. However, the project was not able to address the drainage issues from the original parking lot that was affecting resources below the lot.

Conclusions

The Cahuilla Tewanet Deck Replacement project was consistent with LMP Goal 3.1 to manage recreation in a natural setting by providing for public use and natural resource protection. It also helped achieve the program emphasis for the National Monument Place by focusing conservation education on interpretation of heritage and biological resources.

Recommendations

- A project should be undertaken to address the resources affected by the drainage issues from the original parking lot.



Gold Mountain Mine (08-LMP-Manage Minerals-1)

Monitoring

The Gold Mountain mine is an ongoing activity in the Big Bear Place. The monitoring team visited the site on June 2, 2009.

This mine is operating under an approved Plan of Operations (POO) that authorizes the two current discovery tunnels. The operator wishes to add a ventilation shaft but this is not included in the POO. The Forest succeeded in having the operator rehabilitate an unapproved access road, and the rehabilitation measures appear to be effective. No issues with rare plants on the site were observed during the monitoring visit. One potential wildlife issue is that an open metal tank of wash water could trap small animals that attempt to drink from it and fall inside.

Conclusions

The management of this mine is generally consistent with the Big Bear Place Program Emphasis in the 2005 LMP. As this is an area of on-going management and not a specific project undertaken since approval of the 2005 LMP, it is not possible to precisely state that LMP goals, desired conditions, standards and mitigation measures are yet fully incorporated into all operational plans. These will be incorporated as the Plan of Operation is updated.

Recommendations

- Update reclamation plan for the operation.
- The open metal tank of wash water should have an escape ramp for wildlife. The old water tank and other debris should be removed if not usable.

Columbia Gemstone Mine (08-LMP-Manage Minerals-2)

Monitoring

The Columbia Gemstone Mine is located off 6S13 on Thomas Mountain. This is an ongoing activity occurring on approximately 2 acres in the Garner Valley Place. The monitoring team visited the site on June 5, 2009.

This mine is operating under an approved Plan of Operations. There are no biological, botanical or archaeological issues related to this activity. Watershed issues will be addressed in the 2009 Watershed BMP report. The primary issue with the mine is to require the operator to provide adequate fencing along the Forest road. There is also a limitation of 1,000 cubic yards of disturbance that must be maintained.

Conclusions

The management of this mine is generally consistent with the Garner Valley Place Program Emphasis in the 2005 LMP. As this is an area of on-going management and not a specific project undertaken since approval of the 2005 LMP, it is not possible to precisely state that LMP goals, desired conditions, standards and mitigation measures are yet fully incorporated into all operational plans. These will be incorporated as the Plan of Operation is updated.

Recommendations

- Require the mine operator to provide adequate fencing along the Forest road.

Grass Valley Fire Suppression Repair and Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) (08-LMP-Watershed Function-1)

Monitoring

The Grass Valley fire burned 1,247 acres in October, 2007. The monitoring team visited the Grass Valley Fire area on May 20, 2009. The team drove in from Sonora Road onto 2N34A through the BAER gate and traveled west and north on 2N34 through the BAER gate at 2N34 just west of 2N37. Both gates were intact, locked and functioning.

Less than ¼ mile of fence construction is needed on the North side of the 2N34A spur approximately 1/3 mile past the Sonora gate. This would prevent off route vehicle access to the north and the heritage site. The area should also be slashed to disguise unauthorized routes and to create microhabitats for natural vegetative recovery, and it could be planted with trees in the future. The gate at the junction of 2N34A and 2N34 needs repair. Hazard tree removal is also needed along 2N34.

The team observed that dozer lines and safety zones on the north side of 2N34 in NW1/4 section 7 had been repaired and were recovering well. Berms and fences are intact and holding, and vegetative recovery is occurring. Fences installed on the south side of 2N33 to protect rare plants and heritage sites on suppression lines were in place and holding. Fence installation to protect vernal wetlands on north side of 2N33 was also intact and functioning to restrict off route vehicle use in wetlands.

The monitoring team drove through mixed conifer, California black oak woodland, canyon live oak woodland, and Coulter pine forest habitat types along 2N34 and 2N33. Seedlings of canyon live oak and black oak were 4 inches in height and multi-leaved. Deer brush (*Ceanothus integerrimus*) had sprouted from seed and was between four inches and two feet in height and provided a major understory component in some locations. Manzanita (several *Arctostaphylos* spp.) seedlings were also observed. Four native grass species were observed in many locations. Cheatgrass and other non-native grasses were also observed. Many grasses and forbs were in flower and are expected to provide seed for future cover and regeneration of the burned area.

Implementation of the temporary system road closure of Forest Road 2N34 and 2N34A as recommended in the BAER report is effectively resulting in natural vegetative recovery. To allow another full season of vegetation recovery, it was recommended the gates remained closed through the summer of 2009. It was recommended that gates on 2N34 and 2N34A be re-opened in the fall of 2009 if the fence installation, gate repairs and hazard tree removal could be completed by then. Work is underway at this time, however not all of the required measures for re-opening have been completed.

Conclusions

BAER treatments and suppression repair actions were completed in timely manner and were effective. The actions needed to prior to reopening Forest Roads 2N34 and 2N34 have been identified and are scheduled for completion. The temporary vehicular closure of the burned area for approximately two years is an effective treatment to restore natural vegetative recovery. This treatment most likely also reduces weed introduction and spread due to amount of native species

cover and competition with weeds. Temporary vehicular closure along with monitoring is also effective in natural vegetative recovery along dozer lines by ensuring repaired lines are not breached by unauthorized vehicle use. This is important within the Wildland Urban Interface where housing communities are present adjacent to National Forest System lands that have burned. This treatment also assisted in heritage site protection by allowing natural vegetative recovery to effectively disguise sites. Installation of gates and barriers (BAER) and patrol monitoring (under suppression repair) proved effective in restricting unauthorized public use. Hazard tree removal and the installation of warning signs reduced public safety hazards and threats to public power lines; no incidents were reported.

Recommendations

- Continue to complete actions required to lift the temporary road closures to promote public access into this area as soon as possible.
- Weed surveys and hand pulling early in the growing season will reduce weed spread by removing weeds prior to seed set. Weeds are also easier to remove when smaller.

Baldy Mesa OHV Unauthorized Trail Rehabilitation (08-LMP-OHV Rehab-1)

Monitoring

The Front County Ranger District worked on several related projects within the Baldy Mesa OHV area in 2008 using a portion of the \$189,000 grant received from the State of California Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVRD) to restore 17 miles of unauthorized trails. Another \$20,000 was received from the Regional Recreation Fee Program grant to support this effort. These actions were completed under the Decision Memo for Habitat Protection signed in 2004 under the authority of the 1989 Land Management Plan. A consistency check was documented for compliance with the 2005 LMP. The monitoring team and the Forest Leadership team visited the Baldy Mesa project area on July 8, 2009.

State funds were also utilized to hire and maintain a forest protection officer for Baldy Mesa and other OHV areas on the Front Country District. These patrol officers along with the SBNFA OHV patrol made public contacts focusing around the staging area to educate users as they come on to the Forest and at the northern Forest boundary and urban interface where the majority of unauthorized use originates.

OHMVRD grant funds were used to survey unauthorized trails with GPS units and create a map showing routes proposed for retention/designation and those for restoration. Local seed was collected and propagated at the Lytle Creek and Big Bear Native Plant Materials Centers, and the Big Bear Center began a successful plant propagation program using cuttings. Numerous field visits and surveys were conducted and plans for restoration implementation were scheduled for winter of 2007 and implemented in the spring and fall of 2008.

In 2005, access points to two unauthorized trails were restored utilizing funding from the Regional Recreation Fee Program grant and contributed labor from REI volunteers. One hundred sixty containers of native plants were planted on the sites. Unauthorized trail development occurred at one site. In the fall of 2006, a fence was installed and an additional 275 containerized plants were planted by volunteers from Toyota, Inc. and Chaffey High School.

On National Public Lands Day in the fall of 2007, nearly two hundred volunteers from Toyota, Timberland, and other groups completed seed and acorn collections and directly seeded over one mile of unauthorized routes and planted seedlings on 0.5 miles of road. During the winter of 2007/2008, the Forest completed a sensitive species booklet for Baldy Mesa, a restoration action plan, and heritage clearances to continue on the ground restoration activities. Unauthorized route mapping was also updated. Work began in spring 2008 on 17 miles of unauthorized route restoration. In March 2008, 50 volunteers gathered in remembrance of fellow employee Darren Coffey to plant several hundred plants and spread seed, and complete fencing of "I" road. This effort continued in summer 2008. During fall 2008, the Forest planted 400 plants and collected and spread more seed over 0.5 miles with L.A. Americorp, Urban Youth Corp, SBNFA Children's Forest, and the Coffey family. An interpretive sign was created and ordered and mechanized restoration was completed for this project. Overall, more than 2,000 plants have been planted, several hundred pounds of seed scattered, several miles of slash placed on unauthorized routes, and several thousand feet of fencing has been installed (including a cable/pipe fence at Windy Point/ Lookout point).

During the planting and barrier installation, biologists were present to protect sensitive cacti and monitor for rare wildlife species. Containerized plant survivability was good due to increased hand watering to increase survival. Fences are monitored, repaired, and extended frequently.

Conclusions

Due to increased hand watering and decreased drought conditions, approximately 80 percent of the containerized plants survived. Lessons learned from these planting sites will be applied to future restoration activities at this location.

Additional patrols and public education are needed in the Baldy Mesa area. The monitoring team noted the contrast between unauthorized use on NFS lands and that on adjacent private lands. While unauthorized use is lower on NFS lands, additional vehicle exclusion methods are needed to ensure restoration sites are protected over the long term and new routes are not established.

The project is consistent with LMP Goal 5.2 to provide for public use and natural resource protection and Goal 5.1 to improve watershed conditions. It is also consistent with the Mojave Front Country Place program emphasis for the prevention of user created off route vehicle travel. The design criteria of having monitors present during project implementation was effective in protecting sensitive plants and wildlife.

Recommendations

- To move the Forest toward the desired conditions for OHV use, complete the Baldy Mesa Trail environmental analysis as soon as possible.
- Continue to restore unauthorized trails and increase patrols to allow complete recovery of treated locations and to direct use on existing trails.

V. Overall Recommendations

LMP Monitoring Protocol

- Update the LMP Monitoring Protocol, including updates of the baseline tables. The update should be reviewed by the Forest Leadership Team.

Forest and Project Planning

The following recommendations do not originate from any one individual project or activity review but rather, grew out of considering how to improve Forest-wide programs, projects and activities:

- 1) Remind Forest Line Officers and staff that:
 - Projects with decision executed prior to October, 2005 (when the revised Forest Land Management Plan went into effect) that are under Forest control (i.e. no contract, permit or agreement) and have not yet been implemented or where contracts can be changed require that a Plan ‘consistency review’ be completed and included in the project file. Checklists by project type are available for this purpose.
 - Projects with decisions executed after the October, 2005 effective date of the revised Forest Land Management Plan as well as re-issuance of existing authorizations will be treated as new decisions that must be consistent with the direction described in the 2005 Plan.
 - It is especially important to ensure that the Terms and Conditions and take limits for threatened and endangered species that are required in Biological Opinions be strictly adhered to.
 - In 2009, to meet reporting requirements of the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), a decision was made on the San Bernardino National Forest to update the annual 2001 Biological Opinion Term and Condition Reporting requirement spreadsheet in October of each year when other reporting requirements are due. The Forest Biologist will then send the reporting spreadsheet to the FWS in November of each year under a cover letter signed by the Forest Supervisor. The reporting spreadsheet will then be included as a web link in the next Fiscal Year’s LMP Monitoring Report.
- 2) During project planning there is a need to:
 - Address the [2001 Roadless Rule](#) at the onset of all project planning, which may involve Forest Service staff in Sacramento meeting with the State Resources Agency.
 - Address recommended Wilderness, eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers, recommended RNAs, newly designated SIAs and Critical Biological land use zones and any new legislatively designated wilderness or Wild and Scenic River locations at the onset of all project planning.
 - Utilize LMP consistency checklists to display red flags prior to writing the “proposed action”.

- Ensure heritage resource and Tribal Consultation policies are met and documented in the project file.
 - Ensure that Fuels Reduction IDIQ contract general requirement C.11 Noxious Weeds and the FS-2400-2 (or FS-2400-4) timber sale contract provisions are implemented Forest-wide. Ensure equipment inspections are completed and documented prior to initiation of contracted work.
- 3) Forest leadership is needed to:
- Provide direction on content and storage of hard copy and digital project files and to establish a timeline for establishment and distribution of such protocol.
 - Improve the timeliness of accomplishment reporting in all the corporate databases including both tabular and spatial data. This is necessary in order to track and monitor projects, and to get proper credit for accomplished projects.
 - Create a 2010 Forest program of work that:
 - Is responsive to identified work items in the Land Management Plan or Record of Decision;
 - Effectively focuses the Forest's limited resources on making progress toward LMP desired conditions and completing identified work items through integration of functional programs around common priorities.

VI. LMP Amendments

The Forest Plan is a dynamic document that can be amended in response to:

- Errors and or discrepancies found during implementation;
- New information;
- Changes in physical conditions;
- New laws, regulations, or policies that affect National Forest management.

The amendments to date are listed in the table below. Supporting documents are kept on file in the Forest Plan Tracking Notebook. We frequently learn about the need for amendments through monitoring, however no amendments are recommended from this monitoring effort.

Table 2. Forest Plan Amendments

Amendment	Implementation Date	Type of Change
1	October 24, 2005	Errata
2	April 21, 2006	Reissuance of Record of Decision (ROD) due to technical error in the FEIS regarding omission of public comments on wildlife issues and the agency's responses in the printed and published materials. Began a new 90 day appeal period April 21, 2006 which ended July 20, 2006. The Plan went in effect October 31, 2005 and will remain in effect. The decision to select Alternative 4A did not change.
3	April 2006	Errata- San Bernardino National Forest Plan – 1 page of errata specific to the SBNF.
4	September 2006	Errata- for Published Documents- southern California Forest Plans Revision. This is the final errata published for all 4 southern California forest plans. It is 31 pages and includes

Amendment	Implementation Date	Type of Change
		all prior errata. Available on website http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/scfpr/projects/lmp/errata
5	September 8, 2006	Administrative Correction (36CFR 219.7). Correction to SBNF Part 2, p.16. Table 487. Designated Utility Corridors-San Bernardino National Forest. Added Devers-Valley No. 1, a 1.8 mile 500Kv (1) utility corridor to table. This corridor occurs on the San Jacinto Ranger District and was inadvertently left out of the table during the plan revision. The entire Devers –Valley No. 1 correction is available on the Forest website.
6	January 14, 2008	SBNF Plan Amendment. USDA FS Designation of Section 368 Energy Corridors on national Forest System Land in 10 Western States. Decision by Secretary of Agriculture to Amend Land Management Plans.

VII. LMP Updates

Forest Plan Amendments (discussed above) change decisions made by the Forest Plan. Consequently, they require environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). From time to time other changes to the Forest Plan are needed which are not intended to affect earlier decisions or Plan objectives. Examples of such changes include corrections; clarification of intent; changes to monitoring questions; and refinements of management area boundaries to match management direction with site-specific resource characteristics at the margin of the maps. We call these types of changes “updates.” Since they do not change any Plan decision, they do not require NEPA analysis.

Updates to the San Bernardino Land Management Plan are described in the table below. The supporting document is on file in the Forest Plan Tracking Notebook. There are no updates recommended as a result of this monitoring effort.

Table 3. Forest Plan Updates

Update	Implementation Date	Type of Change
1	May 31, 2006	Removal of Mill Creek Recreation Tract from the list of Recreation Residence Tracts in Part 2, p.17., Other Designations-Table 481.Recreation Residence Tracts. The Decision Memo was signed May 31, 2006; the Tract was conveyed on December 13, 2007.

VIII. Action Plan

Task and Responsible Official	Effective Date
The Forest Supervisor approves all of the recommendations in section V.	September 30, 2009
The SBNF 2008 M&E Report will be discussed at an upcoming Forest Leadership Team (FLT) meeting.	October 2009
To ensure the recommendations of the on the ground and activity monitoring in section III are reviewed, the Forest Supervisor will inform project and program leaders who participated in the monitoring of the availability of the 2008 M&E Monitoring Report on the SBNF website.	November 2009
To promote LMP consistency in future projects, the Forest Supervisor will recommend all employees read the 2008 M&E Monitoring Report available on the SBNF website.	November 2009

IX. Public Participation

In October 2009, those on the LMP monitoring mailing list will receive a letter notifying them of the availability of the Forest LMP Monitoring and Evaluation Report on the Forest web page (or print version upon request).

X. List of Preparers

The FY 2008 LMP monitoring team consisted of:

Gabe Garcia, Front Country District Ranger
Scott Tangenberg, Mountaintop Acting District Ranger
Greg Casselberry, San Jacinto Acting District Ranger
Richard Thornburgh, NEPA/Forest Planner
Dev Kopp, Forest Planning/District Botanist

Greg Hoffman, OHV Program Manager
Steve Loe, Wildlife Biologist
Jake Rodriguez, Deputy Front Country District Ranger
Rob Taylor, Forest Hydrologist
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The team expresses its gratitude for support from the following line and staff: Jeanne Wade Evans, Tom Gillette, Henry Herrera, Mike Wakoski, Linda Stamer, Jason Collier, David Kotlarski, Melinda Lyon, Paul Bennett, Rudy Tantare, Melody Lardner, Ann Poopatanapong, Tracy Tennant, Dave Fiorella, Michael Oberndorf, John Ladley, Raj Daniel, Kate Kramer, George Kline, Bill Sapp, Scott Eliason, Robin Eliason, Marc Stamer, Kathie Meyer, Deb Nelson, Uyen Doan, Ken Kempter, Roger Williams, Kim Boss, Mary Debelina, Ray Aguayo, Frank Becerra, Chris Fogle, Hal Carey, Joe Costa, Tom Hall, Mikaila Rimbenieks, David Kelly, Mark Patino, Kermit Johansson, Valerie Baca, and John Miller.



XI. Appendix

Table 3. Projects and activities randomly selected for LMP monitoring and evaluation on the San Bernardino National Forest.								
Unit *	Place	Name **	Project (10%)	Program	Ongoing Activity Site (10%)	Monitor LMP Consistency	Monitor Effectiveness	Documentation reviews, field reviews and/or comments
FCD	Cajon	Baldy Mesa OHV Unauthorized Trail Rehab	X	X		X	X	NEPA file, funding sources, field review 7/8/09
FCD	San Bernardino Front County	Forest Falls Fuels Reduction	X			X	X	NEPA file, field review 7/6/09
FCD	San Bernardino Front County	Angelus Oaks Community Defense Project – Pile Burning	X			X	X	NEPA file, field review 7/6/09
FCD	San Bernardino Front County	Forest Falls Recreation Tract Conveyance	X		SUP, lands	X	X	NEPA file, field review 7/6/09
FCD	San Bernardino Front County	Vivian Creek Trailhead			Rec	X	X	Field review 7/6/09
FCD	Lytle Creek	Tree of Heaven Eradication in Applewhite Campground	X			X	X	NEPA file, field review 7/8/09
FCD	Lytle Creek	Lone Pine Canyon Prescribed Fire	X			X	X	NEPA file, field review 7/8/09
FCD	Cajon	Cleghorn Windmill Testing	X			X	X	NEPA file, field review 7/8/09
SJRD	Idyllwild	North Fork Fuels Reduction	X			X	X	NEPA file, field review 6/4/09
SJRD	Garner Valley	Bonita Vista Prescribed Fire	X			X	X	NEPA file, field review 6/4/09
SJRD	Idyllwild	Marion Mountain Campground			Rec	X	X	Field review 6/5/09
SJRD	Idyllwild	Seven Pines Trailhead			Rec	X	X	Field review 6/5/09
SJRD	Garner Valley	Columbia Mine			Min	X	X	Field review 6/5/09
SJRD	National Monument	Cahuilla Tewanet Deck Replacement	X			X	X	NEPA file, field review 6/5/09
MTRD	Arrowhead	Grass Valley Fire Suppression Repair and BAER	X			X	X	Field review 6/20/09
MTRD	Arrowhead	Highway 18 Reforestation	X			X	X	NEPA file, field review 6/1/09
MTRD	Arrowhead	Deep Creek/ Green Valley Fuels Reduction	X			X	X	NEPA file, field review 6/1/09
MTRD	Big Bear	Skyline Fuelbreak	X			X	X	NEPA file, field review 6/1/09
MTRD	San Gorgonio	Barton Flats Pile Burning	X			X	X	NEPA file, field review 6/1/09
MTRD	Big Bear	Big Bear Discovery Center			Rec	X	X	Field review 6/2/09
MTRD	Big Bear	Gold Mountain Mine			Min	X	X	Field review 6/2/09
MTRD	Big Bear	Doble Yellowpost site			Rec	X	X	Field review 6/2/09
MTRD	San Gorgonio	Oso Lobo Group Campground			Rec	X	X	Field review 6/2/09
MTRD	Arrowhead	Highway 18 Concentrated Use			Rec	X	X	Field review 6/3/09

Table 3. Projects and activities randomly selected for LMP monitoring and evaluation on the San Bernardino National Forest.								
Unit *	Place	Name **	Project (10%)	Pro-gram	Ongoing Activity Site (10%)	Monitor LMP Consistency	Monitor Effective-ness	Documentation reviews, field reviews and/or comments
		Area						
Forest	Many	OHV Grant Monitoring Requirements		X	Rec	X	X	Reviews of WHPP, restoration site monitoring, and results. Discussion of methods and results of Soils Monitoring Program, Adopt-A-Trail and SBNFA Volunteer Monitoring Programs 8/30/09
Forest	Several	Heritage Program Monitoring		X	Her-itage	X	X	Discussion with Heritage Program Manger and MT District Archaeologist and review of examples of various monitoring forms 08/2009
Forest		Grazing Allotments		X	Range	X	X	Not monitored due to schedule conflicts. Will be coordinated with BMP monitoring and addressed in FY 2009 Report.
Forest	All	FY 08 Annual Species Monitoring per Biological Opinion		X			X	Review of T&E Species monitoring report to Fish and Wildlife Service.
Forest	Many	Roads Monitoring		X				Field reviews: MTRD 6/2-3/09 1N86, 3N34, 2N37; SJRD 6/4/09 4S01, 5S06
Forest	All	BMPEP review per State agreement		X	X	X	X	BMPEP sampling and documentation as required by Regional Agreement w/State Water Resources Control Board.

* FCRD = Front Country Ranger District; SJRD = San Jacinto Ranger District; MTRD = Mountain Top Ranger District