

**Klamath National Forest
Fiscal Year 2003
Monitoring and Evaluation Report**

September 14, 2004

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Introduction

The Fiscal Year 2003 Monitoring and Evaluation Report documents the evaluation of monitoring information related to the Klamath National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) from October 1, 2002 through September 30, 2003. Data is compared to data from past years, when appropriate. Monitoring results are emphasized rather than monitoring data. Evaluations were based on professional judgment when monitoring data was incomplete or lacking.

Monitoring Activities and Evaluation

The following section is organized by program areas as they appear in the Forest Plan. Each section identifies program goals, summarizes the monitoring actions related to this program area, and evaluates how well program goals are being met and how closely management standards and guidelines have been followed. Program Emphasis goals can be found on pages 4-5 through 4-9 of the Forest Plan. Forestwide goals can be found on pages 4-4 through 4-5 of the Forest Plan. Monitoring elements from the Forest Plan Monitoring Plan can be found in Table 5-1 of the Forest Plan on pages 5-11 through 5-14. All Forest Plan page references relate to the version on the Forest web site, which includes all amendments and errata as of November 21, 2001.

Quantitative program accomplishments are not included in this list as they are displayed in other reports such as the Forest's Management Attainments Report.

Physical Environment

Physical Environment

Goals: The goals are to achieve water quality objectives through the use of best management practices, mitigate erosional effects, and treat toxic substance hazards.

Monitoring: Best management practices monitoring follows Regional evaluation guidelines and procedures. Wildfire burned areas are evaluated for unacceptable erosion levels using the Burned Area Evaluation Review process. Monitoring of hazardous materials (naturally occurring asbestos, radon, abandoned mines and landfills, etc.) is done by maintaining an inventory of known and new sites and investigating and cleaning up hazardous wastes/substances present. Hazardous abandoned mine sites are signed. Safety problems and other reclamation problems are prioritized and projects initiated and completed as funding allows.

Results: Fiscal year 2003 represents the twelfth year of best management practices monitoring on the Forest. A total of 51 sites in 7 categories that include timber, roads, recreation, grazing, rock pits, fuel reduction, and vegetation manipulation activities were monitored. Eighty percent of the best management practices sites met the criteria for implementation and 90 percent met the evaluation criteria for effectiveness. This represents a decrease in both implementation and effectiveness compared to fiscal year 2002 results. There was evidence of minor erosion impairing water quality from the noncompliant sites. One mining operation had significant erosion and hazmat spills near a stream.

Problems and possible solutions are: **(1)** Best management practices and water quality protection requirements or objectives were not included in the environmental assessment or road design package. In more recent projects, the Forest is developing site-specific best management practices and including them in the planning documents or project file. **(2)** A stream-crossing repair near a water source generated erosion problems. A possible solution is to design the

access road and approaches to the water source so that erosion does not occur; spot rocking the surface with aggregate material to reduce rilling and erosion may be an option. **(3)** Stockpiled road fill material eroded into a live stream. One solution would be to not stockpile material near streams or other sensitive locations. If these are the only possible locations, the material at the toe of the slope should have erosion control and stabilization measures in place; for example, boulders or logs with filter cloths could be placed behind them. **(4)** A reclaimed mine area eroded, refuse was improperly disposed, and hazardous materials improperly contained at mining operations. One way to resolve this would be to treat on-site erosion, control/contain spills, and contain and store hazardous materials in a timely manner. **(5)** Repair of developed and dispersed recreation sites caused water diversions. A solution would be to include water diversion in the design. Erosion and piping of the fill can be reduced by proper compaction of the fill, use of riprap, or designing a rock fill crossing.

Geology

Goals: The goal for geology is to promote slope stability. The goal for cave management is to be consistent with legal direction. For the purposes of Forest monitoring, more specific goals have been developed and/or applied as listed here: **(1) Life and Property-** Protect human life and property from geologic hazards (landslides, seismic and volcanic events, asbestos dust, radon gas). **(2) Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives-** "Maintain and restore the sediment regime with which aquatic ecosystems evolved. Elements of the sediment regime include the timing, volume, rate and character of sediment input, storage, and transport". Emphasis is placed on minimizing management-related landslides and maintaining natural slope stability. **(3) Unique Geologic Areas-** Protect and maintain unique geologic resources (Special Interest Areas, Research Natural Areas, caves). **(4) Restoration-** Restore areas damaged by previous human activity (such as abandoned mines, or sediment-producing roads). **(5) Geologic Resources-** Ensure that geologic resources (rock aggregate and earth materials, locatable minerals, groundwater) are developed in a cost-efficient and environmentally sound manner.

Monitoring: **(1)** Systematic monitoring of landslides through field visits and air photo inventories is conducted only after landslide episodes (primarily after precipitation events). Similarly, the effects of seismic/volcanic activity are monitored only after such events occur. In the absence of such events, monitoring is limited to field personnel collecting information. Asbestos is monitored by sampling proposed aggregate or riprap sources for asbestos content, and sampling air in the vicinity of earth-disturbing activities in asbestos-bearing earth materials. **(2)** Aquatic conservation strategy objectives related to sediment and geologic standards and guidelines associated with landslide mitigation are reviewed on individual projects; the sample information can be used to make determinations at the 5th field watershed scale. **(3)** The condition of cave resources over the past 5 years has been monitored primarily by the Klamath Mountains Conservation Task Force and the Shasta Area Grotto; the Forest Service has monitored only a few caves. Cave features and formations are visually monitored for damage, and bat usage is monitored in selected caves. As opportunities arise, Forest personnel monitor unique geologic areas such as Special Interest Areas on site. **(4)** Restoration monitoring includes determining the amount (miles or number of sites) and effectiveness of road decommissioning and restoration work including landslide stabilization and reclamation of abandoned mines. Roads 46N78 in the Horse/Grider Project, 39N56 in the Crawford Creek Project, 46N61A in the Walker Creek Decommissioning Project, as well as 13N09, 13N09A, and 13N06Y in the Ti ERFO Decommissioning Project were monitored in 2003. **(5)** In 2003, two earth materials developments in Happy Camp and one in Goosenest District were monitored.

Results: **(1)** There were no large landslide-producing storms, seismic episodes, or volcanic episodes in 2003. An inventory of asbestos-bearing rock sources was initiated in 2001 and work on the inventory continued in 2003. Roads with asbestos-bearing rock on the running surface continue to be used by vehicles.

(2) No significant management-related landslides were reported by District or Supervisor's Office personnel in 2003. This limited landslide activity would contribute to achievement of aquatic conservation strategy sediment regime objectives over the long term at the 5th field watershed

scale. Geologists routinely work on projects with the potential for disturbance, delineating unstable lands in the field.

(3) Cave use has increased over the past several years. No significant damage from vandalism was reported by either the Klamath Conservation Task Force or the Shasta Area Grotto. Forest Service personnel also monitored a few limestone caves and found no evidence of damage. The spray paint graffiti in Barnum Cave reported in 2002 has not been repaired yet. Monitoring of the bat gate installed in Sand Cave in the fall of 2001 showed increased bat use the following year; however, no bat use monitoring was reported in 2003. The vehicle count at the Pluto Cave parking area was 1,295 in 2003. A new drilling pad for geothermal power development was constructed adjacent to Pumice Craters Geologic Special Interest Area in 2002; no direct effects on Special Interest Area features were found during a field visit in the summer of 2003.

(4) In fiscal year 2003, the Forest took credit for decommissioning 14 miles of road, of which 6.3 miles were system roads. These figures relate to the year the project was funded, some work will be completed in 2004. Approximately 5 miles of the decommissioned roads were monitored in 2003 as part of the best management practices program. **Implementation** success was good for activities such as outslowing road surfaces and fully removing fills at stream crossings with only a few minor exceptions. **Effectiveness** was good in that no significant erosion or landslide problems were observed. Without any intense storms in 2003, the **effectiveness** of road decommissioning and restoration work relative to landsliding was not thoroughly tested. Most design elements such as proper outslowing, installing dips, and full removal of fills at crossings were effective at minimizing erosion. Local problems included inadequate barriers at road takeoffs allowing vehicles to access the decommissioned segment, leaving some road fill in a channel following culvert removal, and insufficient mulch cover and less than optimal grass cover on a few disturbed sites. Monitoring details are in the Forest Best Management Practices reports for 2002 and 2003 as well as individual monitoring reports on specific roads.

(5) Implementation and effectiveness criteria were met on the 3 earth material developments monitored. No water quality impacts or sedimentation occurred during rock pit use. Refer to **Air Quality** Section for monitoring and regulatory compliance related to asbestos in rock sources.

Soils

Goals: The goals are to maintain soil productivity and reduce management-related soil erosion.

Monitoring: The attributes monitored are soil cover for erosion protection, fine organic matter for nutrient cycling, coarse woody debris for biological activity, and soil disturbance for root growth. Standardized sampling methodologies developed on the Forest are used to collect the data.

Results: Achievement of Forest Plan recommended soil cover guidelines in managed stands ranged from 84 to 91%, averaging 88% for total cover. Monitoring results show that the requirement for fine organic matter continues to be fully met at 100% for fall prescribed underburn units. The amount of unburned areas within burned stands varies from 9 to 29%. Pre-burn monitoring of handpile areas showed an average of 36 piles per acre with the piles occupying 4% of the area. Sampling the mastication of brush-dominated plantations found total soil cover to range from 95 to 99%. Pre-project soil disturbance that exceeded standards is estimated to range from 0 to 10%, averaging 5% on the westside of the Forest and to range from 3 to 19% averaging 10% on the eastside of the Forest. The values are higher on the eastside due to more intensive logging over the past 95 years.

Water Quality

Goals: The goals are to provide adequate instream flows, and to maintain water table levels in wet meadows.

Monitoring: The best management practices program and the aquatic conservation strategy are the primary mechanisms for ensuring the maintenance of water quality. Best management practices are monitored as described under **Physical Environment**. Aquatic conservation

strategy monitoring is described in the **Geology** and **Aquatic Conservation Strategy** sections. The water quality-monitoring element is tied to the **Physical Environment** goal of achieving water quality objectives.

There are no monitoring elements in the Forest Plan Monitoring Plan for providing adequate instream flows and maintaining water table levels in wet meadows. The Forest manages flows for domestic use, but does not control flows on rivers controlled by dams such as the Klamath River or flows on the Scott River within Scott Valley. Stream flows on the Klamath and Scott Rivers are monitored by other agencies.

Results: Refer to the **Physical Environment** and **Aquatic Conservation Strategy** sections for discussions of water quality results.

Air Quality

Goals: The goals are to comply with legal requirements, and to manage prescribed fire to avoid prolonged air quality impacts to local communities. Legal requirements include the Federal Clean Air Act and the State Air Quality and Smoke Management Standards and Regulations

Monitoring: Smoke plumes are monitored during prescribed burning projects and complaints recorded. Monitoring compliance with the Asbestos Toxic Control Measures (Title 17, Section 93105 and 93106) consists of evaluating quarry sites in ultramafic rocks; testing for asbestos; discontinuing use of any aggregate with detectable asbestos content; and incorporating dust abatement measures during road construction, maintenance, and quarry operations in ultramafic rocks. Several road decommissioning, road maintenance, and stormproofing projects received permits or waivers in relation to these new regulations. A camera is used to monitor visibility in the Marble Mountain Wilderness. Air quality impacts on lichen and acid rain impacts on water quality in mountain lakes are also monitored.

Results: No complaints were received during prescribed burning in 2003. Fuels were treated mechanically (for example with a masticator) on about 3,400 acres, while only around 1,400 acres were prescribed burned.

Consistent with the 2000 Smoke Management Regulations in California, Smoke Management Plans for Forest projects are submitted to the Siskiyou County Air Pollution Control District to obtain permits for burning. This process was first used in the fall of 2000 and post-burn evaluations found few smoke impacts on sensitive areas.

The California and National Environmental Protection Agency air quality databases indicate that overall air quality measured by PM₁₀ has been good from 1999 through 2003. In the last 5 years, the more stringent state daily PM₁₀ standard was exceeded a couple of times during the 2002 fire season at the Yreka monitoring station due to the Biscuit Complex Fire in southwest Oregon. Forest management activities, such as prescribed burns, have not exceeded state or federal air quality standards.

The on-going Forest rock resource inventory provides information on rock pits containing asbestos minerals. The Forest has developed a process to comply with the regulations and obtain permits from the Siskiyou County Air Pollution District for road construction, maintenance, and quarry projects in ultramafic rocks. No dust abatement plans have been developed for rock quarries in ultramafic rocks as private rock sources have been used.

Biological Environment

Biological Environment

Goals: The goals are to manage for healthy ecosystems, provide goods and services in an environmentally sound fashion, use new knowledge, develop an integrated inventory, cooperate with other agencies, and promote awareness and appreciation of species.

Monitoring: The Northwest Forest Plan and Forest Plan initiated a management scheme which, applied over time, should result in healthy ecosystems. Monitoring of management actions is completed annually as part of the Forest Plan Implementation monitoring program conducted in a consistent manner throughout the range of the Northwest Forest Plan. Results of the Forest's involvement in that program are contained in annual Northwest Forest Plan reports.

Monitoring for terrestrial species and ecosystems included a review of annual Program Of Work documents, project proposals and associated funding levels, discussions with wildlife biologists on the Forest, field survey results, and technical reports completed through Forest staff efforts. Efforts such as Late-Successional Reserve northern spotted owl surveys, field verification of the Forestwide Late-Successional Reserve Assessment, and landbird monitoring serve as the best assessments of the status of late-successional habitat conditions and species associated with those habitats. Bald eagle, peregrine falcon, Swainson's hawk, goshawk, burrowing owl, and loggerhead shrike surveys were also completed.

Monitoring for fisheries and aquatic ecosystems consisted of a review of Forest Plan goals, standards and guidelines, national program goals, action items established by the 1995 Recreational Fisheries Executive Order, and threatened, endangered, and sensitive listings of anadromous salmonids that occurred since the adoption of the Forest Plan.

Sensitive species are currently tracked through pre-project surveys and/or habitat reviews. Data on new plant populations are entered into the corporate plant layer. Additions and deletions to the sensitive plant list occur at the Province and Regional level using input from Forest Botanists.

Management indicator species are evaluated through a review of effects of project level activities on habitat conditions. The Forest relies on monitoring efforts conducted by the state, research groups (private and federal), universities, and the landbird monitoring conducted through partnerships with qualified groups to determine current habitat conditions and species presence.

In 2003, over 100 acres at 24 road rehabilitation and burn sites were monitored to determine if rehabilitation with native seed was successful. The 24 sites were concentrated in 3 general areas with fairly harsh sites including granitic soils and barren areas. All areas had also been monitored sporadically in the past beginning in 1995. The monitoring results are included in 3 reports. In 1994, the Forest began a program to provide native seed for rehabilitation and restoration. Native seed collected on the Forest is propagated through a contract with local nurseries.

Results: The Northwest Forest Plan is a long-term strategy (100 years) and has not been in effect long enough to validate its success in maintaining healthy ecosystems. At the Forest scale, fuel loadings, mortality, and overstocking have been increasing. Management options for dealing with these issues are limited. Over the last 6 years the trend has been towards more restrictions on use of active management, both through application of restrictive standards and guidelines, and through limitations developed from court cases.

The Late Successional Reserve Network Assessment modeling (Zabel and others 2003) indicates that most Late-Successional Reserves (those that are not at the edge of the range, or in interspersed land ownership patterns) are functioning for Northern spotted owls and other late-successional species.

Forest staff attended a Regional conference on management indicator species and the application to Forest Plans and project level analysis. The Forest continued to identify changes in management indicator species habitat at the project level through the process formalized in 2002.

The Forest has not developed an integrated inventory system. The implementation of the FLORA and FAUNA corporate databases may facilitate integration. The Forest Geographical Information System layer of known sites for Northern spotted owls was updated through coordination with the State of California. A goshawk database was established to track known and historic locations of goshawks in the state.

Coordination with other agencies has been increasing over the last 5 years and cooperation in consultation, project development, and implementation is generally good.

Promoting public awareness of species is ongoing. Forest personnel are involved in a variety of environmental education projects throughout the county, including the annual Wildflower Show, Siskiyou Golden Fair, and noxious weed awareness. The Forest, Siskiyou County Agriculture Department, and other groups sponsored a booth at the Siskiyou Golden Fair called "Siskiyou County Weed Management Area" in 2003.

On areas monitored in 2003, native grass seed mixtures were successful for rehabilitating appropriate areas (certain soil types and areas with adequate seedbed preparation). Native grass seeding was not successful on grainy, well-drained decomposed granitic soils and the barrens of the Siskiyou Crest. Monitoring the use of native seed for rehabilitation and watershed restoration will continue to determine the effectiveness on other soil types and microclimates.

Survey and manage species survey data for Salmon River District was reviewed to determine probability of occurrence.

Planning for several projects designed to reduce fuel build-ups in Late-Successional Reserves was initiated using funding from the National Fire Plan and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Cross training between biologists, fuels specialists, and silviculturists occurred through integrated fuels reduction and habitat improvement program objectives in project development. One new biologist was added to the staff after completing a 4-year degree under the Student Education Program.

Biological Diversity

Goals: The goals are to manage for healthy, diverse ecosystems and species habitat. In the past this has led to an emphasis on the Forest to conduct activities that are consistent with achieving recovery of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species.

Monitoring: Monitoring activities are the same as for the **Biological Environment**. The monitoring element for sensitive plants is to assure the maintenance of sensitive plant populations and/or species viability. For late-successional and old-growth species, monitoring elements are to track vegetative changes and ensure openings are consistent with requirements.

Results: See discussion under **Biological Environment**.

Forest Plan standards and guidelines are intended to promote recovery of threatened and endangered species and provide protection to sensitive species by protecting and improving habitat at the range, Forest, and project scales. Actions focused on listed species include implementation of standards and guidelines, completion of the Late Successional Reserve Network Assessment modeling (Zabel and others 2003) that identified high-risk areas, monitoring Northern spotted owl in Late-Successional Reserves, and initiating habitat improvement projects recommended in the Forest-wide Late-Successional Reserve Assessment (USDA Forest Service 1999). The Late Successional Reserve Network Assessment modeling and Forest-wide Late-Successional Reserve Assessment are major accomplishments, serving as planning tools for all project planning and future wildlife projects.

Priorities for restoration of anadromous fish habitat and Late-Successional Reserves were incorporated into a dataset covering all 7th field watersheds and communities at risk (also called the wildland/urban interface in the National Fire Plan), allowing listed species objectives to be integrated in fuel reduction projects. This integration is most evident in Late-Successional Reserves (refer to Forest-wide Late-Successional Reserve Assessment) and wildland/urban interface areas. The fuel reduction program will reduce the risks of habitat loss in the long term. A fuels reduction/habitat improvement project called Garden Gulch was developed and analyzed in the Little North Fork Late-Successional Reserve. The Forest and the local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service jointly funded and developed this project.

Limited monitoring of peregrine falcons and bald eagles indicate that the 1990 Resource Planning Act goals are being met. Peregrine falcons averaged 13 pairs during the first 5 years of Forest Plan implementation with a new sighting on Happy Camp District in 2003; the Resource Planning Act goal is 14. Bald eagles averaged 10 pairs; the Resource Planning Act goal is 5. The Forest

coordinated with the local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to complete protocol surveys for Northern spotted owl in 3 Late-Successional Reserves. The survey results will be used to plan fuels reduction treatments in Late-Successional Reserves, increase understanding of these Late-Successional Reserves as population sources for Northern spotted owls, and assist in Endangered Species Act consultation.

This year's sensitive plant monitoring was focused on *Cypripedium montanum* (mountain lady-slipper orchid) and *Cypripedium fasciculatum* (clustered lady-slipper orchid). Forest Plan monitoring since 1994 for these 2 species focused on whether protective mitigations were followed and the effectiveness of the mitigations in achieving species viability goals. Monitoring for the *Cypripediums* conducted from the early 1990s through 2003 found that mitigation measures were effective at protecting populations at 80% of the sites. Impacts occurred at 20% of the sites (4 sites) resulting in the loss of individual plants due to lack of implementation; the mitigation measures were not included in contracts due to poor communication. This problem has been resolved through the development of a documentation system that ensures mitigation measures are relayed to contract preparers.

Monitoring showed that 64% of the *Cypripedium* populations were stable or increasing. Total plant numbers for the 2 species, both within project areas and outside, increased from 1,217 to 1,614. This includes sites where the species management guide allowed impacts, sites that were not protected in spite of recommended mitigation, and sites for which protection was recommended and achieved. This indicates that the mitigations applied to populations within projects and throughout the species range on the Forest have been effective in meeting the forestwide standards and guidelines. *C. montanum* and *C. fasciculatum* have been managed to ensure the maintenance of reproducing, self-sustaining populations, and to prevent the need for the listing the species as threatened and endangered.

Aquatic Conservation Strategy

Goals: The goals are to maintain and restore all 9 components of the aquatic ecosystem.

Monitoring: Monitoring consisted of a review of standards and guidelines, the Best Management Practices Evaluation Program, and project level planning documents. Refer also to the **Physical Environment** and **Geology** Sections.

Results: Monitoring has shown that project-level planning sometimes fails to identify the specific best management practices applicable to the proposed activity, and the specific project level actions or mitigation necessary to meet best management practices implementation; refer to **Physical Environment** Section. Although not reflected in the 2003 best management practices monitoring that looked at older projects, substantial improvement in projects planned since 2000 occurred relative to developing and linking specific project level design standards to applicable best management practices. This improvement has been noted by staff of the North Coast Water Quality Control Board during project planning review. The Forest continues to maintain an excellent record of compliance with achieving on-the-ground best management practices monitoring targets.

A review of road construction and decommissioning in key watersheds showed a net decrease in road mileage. Monitoring indicates improved road construction and decommissioning reporting. Improvement in applying Forest Road Decommissioning Policy guidelines during decommissioning projects continued in 2003. Project reviews have shown improvement each year since problems were identified in 2000.

The Cumulative Watershed Effects modeling provides quantitative information on disturbance levels and risk of sediment delivery at the 7th and 5th field watershed scales. The modeling process has evolved the last 6 years. Updated information is expected in 2004.

Wildlife

Goals: The goals are to coordinate habitat improvement with the California Department of Fish and Game and to maintain unique wildlife habitats.

Monitoring: Monitoring activities are the same as for the **Biological Environment**.

Results: Coordination with the state, which had declined in recent years while focus shifted to coordination with other federal agencies, increased in 2003 related to Northern spotted owl activity centers and elk herds.

Refer to **Biological Diversity** Section for information on listed wildlife species. The wildlife program's attention to big game and big game habitat enhancement increased the last 2 years; projects are being developed on all Districts. A district biologist is the Regional Elk Coordinator. Partnerships with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and California Deer Association are very successful with those groups providing funding for Forest projects. Post-project implementation monitoring occurred for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Round Mountain Elk Habitat Improvement Project and the California Deer Association Deer Habitat East Fork Meadow Enhancement Project. Both projects successfully met the big game habitat objectives.

Landbird, goshawk, Swainson's hawk, burrowing owl, and loggerhead shrike occurrence were monitored using wildlife funds in the Partners in Flight program. The landbird monitoring included 2 stations on the Forest and conducting point count inventories for the Landbird Fire Effects Study in coordination with the Klamath Bird Observatory (2003). The Swainson's hawk, burrowing owl, and some of the landbirds are management indicator species within some associations.

Water developments were inspected in 2003. Mine closures and bat gates are inspected every 1 to 2 years. Surveys found that Townsend's Big-Eared bats use most sites.

Fisheries

Goals: The goals are to coordinate management and increase public awareness and appreciation of aquatic resources.

Monitoring: Monitoring consisted of a review of Forest Plan goals, standards and guidelines, best management practices, national program goals, action items established by the 1995 Recreational Fisheries Executive Order, and numbers/types of public awareness activities.

Results: The Forest participates in cooperative agreements or activities with a variety of agencies and groups, including the Karuk and Yurok Tribes, Klamath Basin Fisheries Task Force, California Department of Fish and Game, the Scott River Coordinated Resource Management Partnership, the Salmon River Restoration Council, Humboldt State University, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – Fisheries (formerly National Marine Fisheries Service).

The Forest responded to some Recreational Fisheries Executive Order action items. These targets are emphasized in annual budget direction and additional resources directed towards completion of planned actions in 2003 and 2004. There are no goals or standards and guidelines for Recreational Fisheries Executive Order activities in the Forest Plan.

Reviews of road crossings associated with fish-bearing streams indicate that relatively few road barriers for anadromous fish passage exist, although several road barriers on resident streams were observed. Because some of the barriers were noted on recently (less than 2 year old) reconstructed road crossings, additional interdisciplinary evaluation of project designs for fish passage is warranted.

Fish passage corrective actions were completed in several watersheds in 2003. Additional batched environmental analysis of identified high priority fish passage sites has been initiated in order to accelerate implementation of on-the-ground corrective actions in 2004.

Monitoring in 2003 showed significant improvement in determining the effects of best management practices on project design standards in relation to fisheries resources.

Public understanding of fisheries issues increased the last 8 years. This is partially due to Forest participation in numerous activities designed to increase public awareness of fisheries values, including the Klamath Provincial Advisory Committee, the Salmon River and mid-Klamath River annual spring Chinook and summer steelhead trout counts, and support of National Fishing Week activities. The Forest also provides environmental education at the high school level, where technology transfer occurs for fisheries-related issues.

Resource Management Programs

Resource Management Programs

Goals: The goals are to integrate resource needs through analysis and planning, to cooperate among resource programs to reduce costs and improve efficiency, and to develop consistent approaches for determining conditions and projecting effects.

Monitoring: The assessment of goal achievement was based on a review of approved projects.

Results: The Forest is using opportunities identified in watershed analyses, the Forest Roads Analysis, the Forest-wide Late-Successional Reserve Assessment, and other assessments to identify and prioritize integrated projects. Road improvement and decommissioning projects benefit both the watershed and the transportation system. Four of these road projects were approved in fiscal year 2003, 2 on Happy Camp and 2 on Salmon River Ranger District; also refer to **Transportation and Facilities**. Fuels projects that achieve fuel, vegetative, habitat, and watershed desired conditions are being proposed throughout the Forest, particularly around communities. Three fuel projects were approved in 2003 on the Happy Camp, Salmon River, and Scott River Ranger Districts. Fuel reduction strategies are being developed for the Happy Camp, Sawyer's Bar, Yreka, and Tennant communities. Planning was initiated for fuel projects in these areas and is continuing for projects in other areas.

Visual Resource Management

Goals: The goals listed in the Forest Plan are to conserve natural scenic character, meet Visual Quality Objectives, emphasize views from key viewing areas, conserve especially attractive landscapes, and rehabilitate areas not currently meeting standards.

Monitoring: The assessment of goal achievement for the Scenery Conservation Program was based on professional judgment of scenery specialists, public comments, and information from Regional and Forest Scenery Managers.

Results:

Valued Landscape Character is the Forest's unique visual image and aesthetic identity that people value. This character has been enhanced in relatively small areas of the Forest, largely through vegetative thinning projects that enhance and sustain the Forest's native appearance. Many more acres are in need of similar work to perpetuate the scenery attributes people value. Widespread selective thinning and group selection activities for large areas of the Forest, when coupled with fuel reduction activities, would decrease the risk for natural disturbances of large scale and high intensity, which could seriously impact the scenic character. These activities also increase scenery attributes including the prominence of large trees, large tree canopy character, spatial variety, views into the forest canopy, forest floor vegetation, bedrock features, and wildlife.

Scenic Integrity is the degree of natural, unaltered appearance in the Forest. In recent years, adverse effects to integrity are less frequent and prominent with the decrease in vegetative treatment intensity. Although some impacts still occurred, project effects were mitigated to achieve Forest Plan integrity objectives (Visual Quality Objectives). Some existing effects will persist for many years.

The Forest's scenery conservation program focuses on complex and sensitive projects. Scenic quality often is not optimized due to trade-offs with other resource needs. Integration of scenery goals in Forest programs is becoming more routine on projects; however, low funding levels are limiting. Forest landscape architects regularly support regional and national scenery conservation leaders to improve the Scenery Management System used by the Forest Service. Key Scenery Management System principles have been applied effectively to projects on the Forest for several years; examples include Garden Gulch, Erickson, and Meteor projects.

Recreation Management

Goals: The goals are to support communities' diversification efforts, to offer a wide range of attractions, to design developed sites to support recreationists in off-site activities, to provide barrier-free access, and to implement recreational strategies.

Monitoring: The assessment of goal achievement for the Recreation Program was based the professional judgment of recreation specialists, public comments, and information from Regional, Forest, and District Recreation Managers.

Results: Recreation use and demand continues to experience gradual, steady growth. Use is concentrated along scenic byways, rivers, lakes, and in wilderness and backcountry areas. Uncrowded and ecologically rich settings are the Forest's unique recreational assets.

The Forest makes incremental recreational facility improvements that retain valued natural character, increase visitor satisfaction, and contribute to tourism and community diversification efforts. This year the Forest provided interpretive planning and coordination with stakeholders for the Shasta Volcanic National Forest Scenic Byway. A fish cleaning station, accessible campsite furniture, and fisheries interpretive panels were installed at Juanita Lake Campground, with new roadway and campsite parking spurs scheduled in 2004. Roadway and campsite surfacing at Curly Jack Campground created accessible pathways throughout this popular site, with a new double toilet and interpretive fisheries panels scheduled in 2004. On the Klamath Wild and Scenic River, commercial whitewater boating is approaching social thresholds in popular reaches, so alternate reaches were made more attractive through improved river-access facilities at Sluice Box and Rocky Point. As part of the complex evaluation of the proposed 50-year relicensing of PacifiCorp hydropower facilities on the Klamath River, Forest recreation staff have coordinated with the proponent and other agencies in order to conserve the river's important recreational fishing, whitewater rafting, waterplay, and sightseeing opportunities. New wilderness directional signs were installed, and 30 miles of backcountry trail were reconstructed to full standard on the westside of the Forest. Over 120 miles of primary trails were opened by vegetative clearing. These actions will enhance the recreational experience, increase visitor satisfaction, and increase referrals to potential visitors.

The Forest continues to increase the availability of facilities suitable for children, the elderly, and people with mobility impairments through the projects listed above. With very limited recreation budgets, the Forest invests money in high demand/high priority developed recreation sites, areas, rivers, and trails. These investments have almost always supported off-site recreation experiences such as scenic byways, rivers, lakes, trails, and the backcountry. Recreation operations and maintenance costs for key elements are regularly evaluated to improve the Forest program and provide high value services. Annual condition surveys on 20% of recreation facilities identify budget needs to achieve standards. Developed recreation site fees collected under the national cost recovery program contribute significantly to providing onsite services and improvements.

The Forest continues to strategically identify, acquire funds, and plan recreation projects that remove barriers to people with mobility and other disabilities. Progress continues on implementation of the Forest Accessibility Action Plan of 2000, which defined and prioritized accessibility barrier removal for its 192 recreation sites over 10 to 20 years. New facility improvements balance optimal access for people with disabilities and conservation of onsite natural setting characteristics.

The achievement of Forest recreation goals is consistent with the National, Regional, and Forest Recreation Strategies. The 1993 Forest Recreation Strategy has been reviewed and several improvements made.

Wilderness Management

Goals: The goal is to maintain or enhance wilderness values.

Monitoring: The assessment is based on the professional judgment of wilderness specialists, public comments, and information from Regional, Forest, and District Recreation Managers.

Results: Wilderness use is primarily by recreationists and grazing permittees. Use levels are generally light compared to other wildernesses in the Region. Use continues to slightly increase.

Resource effects are primarily due to recreational visitors, grazing use, historic fire suppression, and recent fire suppression activities. Few trailheads provide information about recreation opportunities and wilderness resource conservation measures. Fuel build-ups are increasingly high, partially due to historic fire suppression policies. The Forest's Wildland Fire Management Strategy provides criteria for determining when to allow wildland fire to burn to achieve resource goals in wilderness, rather than always suppressing it as in the past. The availability of this new tool is expected to help reduce fuel build-ups created as a result of past fire suppression. Fire ignitions in the wilderness in 2003 did not provide an opportunity to apply this strategy.

Limited campsite repair work occurs annually, including cleanup, restoration, and trash removal from fragile areas. The extent of exposed mineral soil and loss of native vegetation at many campsites indicates that localized degradation is occurring. Limited trail improvement work occurs each year, including surveys, maintenance, and reconstruction on high priority trails such as the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. About 30 miles of trail were fully reconstructed to standard, and 250 miles were opened and vegetation cleared for the season. Much of this work is done through service contracts with groups such as the California Conservation Corps and Northwest Youth Corp. Due to limited budgets, many trails do not meet the standards for clearing, tread maintenance, signing, and trail logs. Direction on achieving trail/trailhead accessibility standards for those with mobility disabilities has been delayed by federal judicial processes beyond the control of the Forest Service. Some roads and other inconsistent features within wilderness provide opportunities for rehabilitation.

Management decisions regarding acceptable limits of key attributes and values, appropriate land use zoning, and resource emphases are often made informally, frequently lacking the support of coordinated plans or professionally established analysis methods. Identification of baseline ecological values for each wilderness would allow strategies to be developed for maintaining those key values.

Wild and Scenic River Management

Goals: The goal is to maintain and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing conditions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Monitoring: The assessment is based on professional judgment of Wild and Scenic River specialists, public comments, and information from Regional, Forest, and District Recreation Managers.

Results: In general Wild and Scenic River values appear to be in very good condition, but some Wild and Scenic Rivers segments have sporadic problems with anadromous fisheries health. This remains particularly true for the Klamath and Scott Rivers, where water quantity and quality have limitations due to human uses upstream from the Wild and Scenic River segments. Wild and Scenic River considerations are an increasingly prominent element of program planning and project implementation. Forest Wild and Scenic River activity increased slightly again this past year, largely due to the PacifiCorp hydropower relicensing effort on the Klamath River. This project has the potential to affect Klamath River fisheries, water quality, and recreation values. Studies developed as part of the PacifiCorp hydropower relicensing work on the Klamath River

have generated information on whitewater rafting, angling, and flow preferences that may be useful in maintaining and enhancing Wild and Scenic River values. Several restorative tree plantings, beach clearing, and litter patrol projects were accomplished again this year.

Specially Designated Area Management

Goals: The goals are to recognize special areas and values, provide information about these areas, develop partnerships for research within Research Natural Areas, and promote interpretive opportunities within Special Interest Areas.

Monitoring: Special Interest Areas are monitored through field visits as opportunities arise. The Geologic Research Natural Areas that are caves are monitored as described above in the **Geology** section.

Results: Geologic Special Interest Areas and Research Natural Areas have received limited emphasis.

Lands Program Management

Goals: The goal from the Forest Plan and Forest's Land Adjustment Plan is to achieve a land ownership pattern that improves management options, while reducing conflicts and administrative costs. A second program goal is to administer Land Use Authorizations to minimize unauthorized use and facilitate those needs of adjacent landowners that can only be accommodated through the legal use of National Forest System lands.

Monitoring: Program accomplishments were examined and compared to the goal.

Results: Land adjustments are becoming more focused with some longer-term projects being completed. The Land Adjustment Plan identifies opportunities for acquisition or disposal. Action is taken when owners cooperate with Forest managers. Over the past 5 years, the Forest completed a number of land exchanges and purchases resulting in a more solid, compact ownership pattern of National Forest System lands. Such actions reduce administrative costs as fewer road rights-of-way are required and there are fewer miles of property boundary to maintain. These actions also provide more management options for protecting resources and reduce conflicting uses by landowners. The program contributes to the Regional goals for the lands program.

Land Use Authorizations are administered to Forest Service standards to ensure that the use of National Forest System lands for specific purposes by adjacent landowners and others are permitted and legal.

Overall, budget and personnel in the lands program decreased along with the Forest budget. Many of the Forest's original goals have been met. Ownership patterns have improved, although further improvement is possible. A high percentage of property boundaries, and an increasing percentage of wilderness boundaries have been marked to standard and are now in a maintenance mode. Most Land Use Authorizations are adequately administered with only a few minor trouble spots.

The Forest completed 2 purchases totaling 120 acres in 2003. Lakeview was an isolated piece of private land within wilderness. White's Gulch was a series of old mineral patents. The Forest is still negotiating the purchase of 2 other wilderness parcels. Five new miles of property boundary and 12 of wilderness boundary were marked, while 15 miles of boundary were maintained.

Minerals Management

Goals: The goal is to manage mineral exploration and development of surface resources to maintain environmental quality.

Monitoring: Minerals operations for locatable minerals are controlled by the surface use regulations. A mineral administrator periodically visits operations to ensure compliance with the approved plans of operations. Operations not in compliance with plans are cited. Leaseable minerals and minerals materials are regulated by permit.

Results: The Forest is complying with national direction to administer 100% of minerals operations to standard and will continue to do so. Completing environmental and archaeological clearances is taking less time, but there is room for improvement. The Forest regulates a continuing program of small dredging and mining activities. This could increase if the price of gold rises. The number of mineral materials permits is static. The Forest continues to negotiate with a mineral locator who is attempting to obtain patent for large-scale operations on National Forest System lands at Liberty Mine on the Salmon River District. A number of abandoned mine reclamations are in progress. Work on reclamations will continue as funding becomes available. Testing on one geothermal lease has been completed, and the proponent has not yet gone forward with operations.

Transportation and Facilities Management

Goals: The goals are to provide an economical, safe, and environmentally sensitive transportation system; emphasize maintenance and restoration over new construction; and provide safe and effective administrative sites and facilities.

Monitoring: Much of the work in transportation management is routine and done strictly within established best management practices. Program activities are currently monitored under forest resource programs, with support and cooperation from engineering. The transportation staff works closely with Forest resource personnel to identify road-related projects that will improve watershed health and mitigate potential resource impacts. The conditions of all facilities are inspected on a recurring basis. Comprehensive codes and regulations are used to ensure the accomplishment of proper planning, maintenance, construction, and accessibility upgrades.

Results: The 2003 Road Accomplishment Report shows that 30 miles of road were fully maintained with 1,256 miles partially maintained; this exceeds the 521 miles per year for maintenance projected in Table 4-1 of the Forest Plan. Two-tenths of a mile of new road was constructed, which is well below the 10 miles per year projected in the Forest Plan. In addition, a total of 14 miles of road were decommissioned, and 37 miles of road were stormproofed, outsloped or rocked. Every effort is made to complete all work on the ground using established best management practices, which are routinely monitored by engineering contracting officer representatives and inspectors. An ongoing and very successful collaborative effort with the aquatic resource program focuses on combining road, resource, and grant funding to complete road-related key watershed improvements. Failed road sections are being repaired to the maximum extent possible using less fill volume with reinforced or rock fills. When possible, stream crossing fills are replaced with low water crossings, open bottom arches, or rock fills to minimize the potential for future environmental damage. Culverts are sized to 100-year flows, when opportunities arise.

During 2003, progress continued towards improving employee and public safety, comfort, historic preservation, and accessibility of facilities. A two-story barracks and mess hall at the Oak Knoll Work Center was replaced with 2 nine-person barracks. Tree of Heaven Campground received a building addition and water treatment unit. The second generator at Sawyers Bar Work Center was replaced. The roofs on 2 historic structures were replaced with metal shakes that simulate wood. A contract was awarded to replace the roofs and asbestos siding on several structures at the Yreka Service Center. An evaluation of historic structures throughout the Forest was completed and recorded in the geographic information system. Required facility condition surveys were completed and entered into a nationwide database. The Facilities Master Plan was completed in September.

Timber Management

Goals: The goals are to implement silvicultural prescriptions to achieve desired conditions, reforest lands allocated to sustained timber production within five years of harvest, actively reforest areas damaged by extreme events (such as floods, wind, fires, insect infestations), offer the allowable sale quantity, utilize dead and dying trees, implement post-sale treatments, and manage insects and disease.

Monitoring: The annual Planned Timber Sale Accomplishment Report has been used for assessing the allowable sale quantity goal. The reforestation and timber stand improvement goals are assessed each year by comparing accomplishments to targets, particularly for survival and certification of planted stands. The results are documented in the Stand Record System and the yearly Plantation Survival Report.

Results: The Forest continued its efforts to meet timber targets assigned by the Region. The Forest exceeded its assigned target in fiscal year 2003. The timber program was funded at a target level of 52,200 hundred cubic feet. The Forest offered approximately 56,500 hundred cubic feet. This volume included 44,500 hundred cubic feet of green material and 12,000 hundred cubic feet of salvage material. The majority of the sale program contains commercial thinning, sanitation, and salvage. The Forest still struggles developing green tree retention prescriptions for most of its program. Forest Plan modeling identified green tree retention as the primary prescription for the program. The Forest was funded at a level lower than the allowable sale quantity. Two large sales, Knob and Beaver, were litigated during the fiscal year. Timber sale unit costs increased as procedural requirements were complex, survey and manage costs high, low volumes per acre proposed, and appeals and litigation common. Roadside hazard trees are being removed with timber sales where feasible.

The Forest continues to emphasize timber stand improvement activities. Treatments include a combination of older and younger plantations. Accomplishments are completed using both trust funds and appropriated funding. Integration with the fuels program is continuing with emphasis on treating stands to reduce fuel hazards. The reforestation program remains at a low level, due mostly to the lack of regeneration harvesting. Most of the reforestation efforts are confined to interplantings of understocked plantations and the reforestation of wildfires. Survival rates are still in the acceptable range, but not as high as desired. Animal damage efforts have concentrated on controlling gopher and deer problems on some of the younger plantations.

Fire Management

Goals: The goals are to reintroduce fire into the environment, reduce unacceptable fuel buildups, use the appropriate minimum impact suppression methods for wildfires, and develop management and protection strategies for intermixed state and private lands.

Monitoring: Management Attainment Reports were used in determining if acre targets were achieved. When implementing prescribed fire projects, smoke management plans are coordinated with the local air pollution control district to assure that smoke management guidelines are met; refer also to **Air Quality** section.

Results: The Forest Plan projected output for natural and activity fuel treatment is 27,108 acres per year for the first decade. With a fiscal year 2003 natural fuels reduction target of 4,414 acres, the Forest accomplished 4,764 acres; 65% of these treatments were in the wildland/urban interface.

The Forest fuels program has declined over the past several years for several reasons. Limited funding doesn't allow many acres to be treated. Survey and manage requirements impeded the fuels program due to the high cost of surveys and constraints on ground-disturbing activities where species are found. The National Fire Plan emphasis on treating areas around communities at risk has also increased per acre costs.

Compared with last year, 2003 saw a 10% reduction in human-caused fires with a 90% reduction in acres burned. There were 23 human-caused fires for a total of 64 acres. Prevention activities include the involvement and establishment of fire safe councils throughout the Forest, the establishment of a countywide fire safe council, fuel reduction projects, media releases, and public education. About 4,000 people were contacted at the Siskiyou Golden Fair through an interagency booth that explained the advantages of fire prevention in and around homes and communities. Inspections of residences throughout the Forest ensure compliance with fire codes and regulations. Patrols also made public contacts. Eight lookout towers were staffed.

Range Management

Goals: The goals are to provide healthy ecosystems, make forage available on a sustainable basis, not retard or prevent attainment with aquatic conservation strategy objectives, provide forage to support big game objectives, and meet current livestock forage allocations.

Monitoring: Monitoring included the assessment of annual utilization and annual operating instruction effectiveness, specific riparian area monitoring, and long-term monitoring of vegetation changes at 5-year intervals. Monitoring of randomly selected allotments occurs each year for allotments with an Endangered Species Act determination of “may affect, likely to adversely effect” for coho and steelhead salmon, for range best management practices monitoring, and for Forest Plan standards and guidelines.

Results: Allotment monitoring indicates movement towards the goals of providing forage for livestock and wildlife on a sustainable basis while managing grazing activities to meet aquatic conservation strategy objectives. The assessment of long-term condition indicates that range condition is improving. When permittees fail to follow the requirements in annual operating instructions, their permits are suspended or cancelled.

Wild Horse Management

Goals: The goal is to manage for one viable wild horse herd. The population goal for the Three Sisters Herd is 10 head, while the goal for the McGavin Peak Herd is 0.

Monitoring: A census of total numbers, sex, and age class allows annual population estimates to be made. Population numbers are monitored and horses in excess of the population goal are removed.

Results: In 1995, the population estimate was 80 animals for the McGavin Peak Herd and 20 for the Three Sisters Herd. The budget did not allow any capture of horses this year. Capture efforts since 1995 have removed 71 animals from the McGavin Peak Herd and 15 animals from Three Sisters. The McGavin Peak Herd is currently estimated at 50 head and Three Sisters at 15.

Heritage Resource Program

Goals: The goals are to sustain a progressive heritage resource program, inventory known cultural sites, and to determine the significance of each site.

Monitoring: Two types of monitoring occur that are related to Section 106 and Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. As part of the review process for Section 106, historic properties that are potentially eligible and sites that are on the National Register of Historic Places are located and protected during project planning. After project completion, random sites are monitored to ensure that the protection was adequate. As part of the evaluation process of properties eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for Section 110, the condition of properties is monitored and evaluated. This usually requires a single visit to monitor and possibly re-record the condition of the known archaeological sites.

Results: Monitoring data is reviewed each year as part of the 106 and 110 processes, including the number and acreage of pre-project surveys, the number of sites interpreted, the number of cultural education classes held, and the number of tribes consulted. Project planning and 106 monitoring facilitate the location and protection of historic properties. The Forest's Section 110 Monitoring Plan (approved in 2000) established a higher minimum number of sites to be evaluated annually for determining significance than was identified in the Forest Plan Monitoring Plan. Section 110 monitoring continues, and is based on funding and available time. The Forest continues to enter new archaeological information into the national database and map sites in the Forest Geographical Information System. The Forest met the heritage database targets established by the Region.

Tribal Government Program

Goals: The goals are to improve relationships with Indian people, develop partnerships with local Native American organizations, and emphasize increased understanding, communication, and partnerships with Indian tribes, organizations, and communities.

Monitoring: Monitoring consists of tracking the actions taken to improve relations with tribal groups.

Results: Every year the number of contacts with federally recognized and non-federally-recognized tribes increases as the tribes become more politically active. With the development of mutual respect, relationships continue to improve. Agreements are developed and revised as necessary with the federally recognized tribes.

In 2003, the Forest continued government-to-government consultation efforts with the Yurok, Hoopa, Karuk, and Pit River Tribe. The Forest, the Karuk Tribe, and the Happy Camp Community are working collaboratively to address fire protection. The Forest and a member of the Karuk Tribe, presented a Cultural Awareness program to commercial and individual river users during the Karuk World Renewal Ceremonies.

In 2003, the Forest consulted and coordinated with the Klamath Tribes, Confederated Bands of the Shasta and Upper Klamath River Indians (Butte Valley), and Pit River Tribe in the continuing development of the Medicine Lake Highlands Historic Properties Management Plan.

In general, consultation with the Karuk Tribe of California, Klamath Tribes, Shasta Nation/Shasta Tribe, Inc. (Quartz Valley), the Quartz Valley Indian Reservation, the Pit River Tribe, the Yurok Tribe, Confederated Bands of the Shasta and Upper Klamath River Indians (Butte Valley), and Forks of the Salmon Indian Council continued this past year for numerous Forest Service projects.

Social and Economic Environment

Social and Economic Environment

Goals: The goal is to develop partnerships with local and regional groups to emphasize environmental education, public awareness, and knowledge about Forest processes. Although not specified in the Forest Plan, the law provides a civil rights goal, which is to incorporate the expectation of non-discrimination and fairness into every program and process within the Forest. This is done through the development of partnerships with local and regional groups to emphasize the importance of consistency, nondiscrimination, environmental education, public awareness, and knowledge of Forest processes and procedures.

Monitoring: The goals were assessed through a review of all other programs. Classroom hours and program dollars have been used as indicators for environmental education. Information is not currently aggregated at the Forest level for employee participation in Conservation Education with external groups. However, various program areas contribute a portion of their budgets toward attainment of this national emphasis item. For civil rights, the number of complaints received, number of accomplishments in the Civil Rights Implementation Plan, number of programs represented in Title VI reporting, and number of employees attending training and briefings were reviewed.

Results: Efforts in cooperating with other agencies, organizations, tribes, and individuals are ongoing. The Forest cooperates with numerous partners in aquatic and terrestrial restoration projects; in surveying wildlife, fish, and rare plant habitat; in monitoring cave resources; and in maintaining snowmobile facilities. The Forest also provides environmental education programs for students and other groups in a number of resource areas. Extensive coordination and cooperation has occurred with numerous tribes; refer to **Tribal Government Program**. The Forest in cooperation with other groups and agencies has assisted in securing rural development grants, in creating job opportunities and in placing workers through the rural development and community development programs.

Many Forest employees enthusiastically participate in conservation education programs in cooperation with the public schools by contributing their time and expertise in indoor and outdoor classroom education. Some resource programs contribute heavily, while others do not. Siskiyou County Public Schools personnel are conducting workshops with agency representatives and specialists to develop curriculum in various resource fields to satisfy their educational requirements. This curriculum needs to be developed to meet Forest Service agency needs for content and resource area emphasis in line with the national program direction.

The trend in civil rights over the last six years is towards solving issues at the lowest level, thus fewer complaints. Indications are that the increased amount of training and the establishment of the Civil Rights Implementation Team have helped incorporate the civil rights message into many Forest programs and into partnerships.

Public Interaction and Involvement

Goals: The goal is to use all opportunities to explain the Forest's role in implementing the Forest Service Mission.

Monitoring: Program accomplishments were assessed through a consideration of the amount of public interaction and feedback.

Results: The National Fire Plan with its various emphasis items, in particular working with communities through fire safe councils to reduce fire hazard, has provided the Forest with many opportunities to explain its fire control and fuel reduction programs to members of the public.

External contacts and communications with community leaders continue to improve as shown by the increased visibility of Forest programs in interactions with county officials and local community leaders as well as in Forest Service employee participation in community meetings. Increased public involvement in the last 4 years is indicated by the increase in telephone calls; the interest in fire safe councils; and the interest in applying for Payment to State, Fire Plan, and other grants.

Economic

Goals: The goals are to promote economic stability of local communities, develop partnerships for promoting economic stability, promote non-traditional Forest-based resources, emphasize a diversity of goods and services, highlight scenery and recreational opportunities, and encourage the utilization of wood products.

Monitoring: Indicators for contributions by the Forest to the local economy are expenditure levels, types and funding levels of community development grant programs, and projects derived from, as well as payments to, the county through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-393). Human resource programs contribute to Forest actions to support community development

Results: Historically payments to states, which compensate counties for federal lands, have fluctuated based upon timber and other forest receipts. In the past, payments were based upon a formula established by Congress that resulted in a predictable, but declining, amount each year. The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 established a stable payment to Siskiyou County of approximately \$9 million per year for 6 years. This is the highest payment to any county in California. Eighty-five percent of the payment is dedicated to schools and roads with the remaining 15% benefiting National Forest System lands and related county projects based on Resource Advisory Committee recommendations.

Since 1992, community development programs have contributed significantly to economic stability and growth in Siskiyou County. During 2003, the Rural Community Assistance and National Fire Plan Grant programs were quite successful in bringing project funding into the county. Ten grants were written, totaling \$299,931, with a participant contribution of \$130,494.

Partnership agreements with local organizations grew significantly relative to fiscal year 2002. Nineteen participating agreements were completed or modified, totaling \$617,108 in expenditures (\$349,331 Forest, \$267,771 partners). Four Challenge Cost Share Agreements were initiated with \$87,584 expended (\$37,412 Forest, \$50,172 partners).

Partnerships and grants developed as part of the Payments to States Title II (Resource Advisory Committee Program) significantly added to the community development activities of the Forest. Nine grants totaling \$288,463 (\$235,730 Forest, \$52,733 partners), 2 participating agreements totaling \$112,076 (\$40,870 Forest, \$71,206 partners), and 2 Challenge Cost Share Agreements totaling \$59,660 (\$30,412 Forest, \$29,248 partners) were approved through the Resource Advisory Committee Program. Thirty-five additional Resource Advisory Committee projects were recommended in fiscal year 2003 and implementation began that year. In addition, \$147,422 was directed to Forest Service projects, which drew contributions from outside organizations of \$34,483. A total of \$9,043,305 was received by Siskiyou County under Public Law 106-393. Of this, \$678,248 was directed to Resource Advisory Committee (Title II) and \$678,248 was directed to county projects through Title III. The funding targeted for fiscal year 2004 for Resource Advisory Committee (Title II) projects will remain stable at approximately \$680,000.

Volunteers contributed 7,882 hours to Forest programs and projects with an equivalent appraised value of \$106,249. Most volunteer activities were directed towards recreation and wildlife projects.

Hosted programs on the Forest such as the Siskiyou Training and Employment Program, California Department of Corrections, and California Conservation Corps supported County human resources development programs. A total of \$197,497 was devoted to hosted programs resulting in 24,345 hours of project work. The Forest also funded 17 Senior Community Service Employment Program positions (\$153,524) resulting in 18,060 hours of labor in a variety of settings on and off the Forest.

Potential Forest Plan Amendments

The Mount Ashland Ski Area Expansion Draft Environmental Impact Statement, issued in July 2003, proposed a non-significant Forest Plan amendment to account for the programmatic 1991 Ski Area Master Plan decision that expanded the Ski Area Special Use Permit boundary. On

further examination, the proposed change was found to be a correction rather than amendment. The correction would change approximately 25 acres of Matrix land (Partial Retention Visual Quality Objective Management Area) to Administratively Withdrawn.

Funding was not available in fiscal year 2003 for the potential amendments to the Forest Plan identified in the five-year monitoring review. These amendments are generally wording changes to goal statements or standards and guidelines needed to clarify the intent, or new goal statements and standards and guidelines. Based on future budget projections, these minor amendments will likely be postponed until the Forest Plan is revised.

Public Participation Plan

A notice of the Fiscal Year 2003 Monitoring and Evaluation Report will be mailed to those on the Forest Plan mailing list. Copies will also be provided to the Klamath Provincial Advisory Committee and to anyone who requests them. The report will be posted on the Forest's web page.

Supporting Documentation

The supporting information for this report is on file in the various resource departments in the Supervisor's Office and at ranger district offices.

Physical Environment

Natural Resources Staff. 2003. Best Management Practices Monitoring Report for Fiscal Year 2002.

Natural Resources Staff. 2004. Best Management Practices Monitoring Report for Fiscal Year 2003.

Biological Environment

Klamath Bird Observatory. 2003. Final (DRAFT) Effort Report to The Forest Service Region 5 Partner in Flight Program and the Klamath National Forest, January 30, 2004.

Siskiyou Crest Seeding, Tiger KV Seed and Plug Planting, and Tiger KV 1997 Native Grass Seeding Reports.

USDA Forest Service. 1999. Klamath National Forest, Forest-Wide Late Successional Reserve Assessment. Yreka, CA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Klamath National Forest.

Zabel, C.J.; Dunk, J.R.; Stauffer, H.B.; Roberts, L.M.; Mulder, B.R. and Wright, A. 2003. Northern Spotted Owl Habitat Models For Research And Management Application In California (in review). Ecological Applications, 13:1027-1040. On web:

<http://www.esapubs.org/archive/appl/A013/017/default.htm>

Resources Management Programs

Forest Land Surveyor Record of marked and maintained boundaries, Klamath National Forest.

Special Use Permits and related inspection reports, Klamath National Forest.

Siskiyou County Assessor. Lands Transaction Recordings.

Mineral Plans of Operations and mineral leases, Klamath National Forest.

Fiscal Year 2003 Roads Accomplishment Report, Klamath National Forest.

Road Contracts, Klamath National Forest.

Rangeland Implementation Monitoring Report for Fiscal Year 2003, Klamath National Forest.

Heritage Program Annual Reports from 1996 to present, Klamath National Forest.

Social Economic Environment

Civil Rights Implementation Plan, Klamath National Forest.

Grants and Agreements Log, Klamath National Forest.