

NEBRASKA NATIONAL FOREST & ASSOCIATED UNITS: MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2004

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APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION

I certify that the Nebraska National Forest and Associated Units Land and Resource Management Plan 2001 Revision (LRMP), is adequate to guide management of the Nebraska National Forest and Associated Units for 2005.

/s/ Donald J. Bright

Donald J. Bright, Forest Supervisor

INTRODUCTION

Background

The Nebraska National Forest and Associated Units consists of 1,065,000 acres divided into six administrative units in western Nebraska and western South Dakota, known collectively as the “Nebraska National Forest.” The Forest includes two proclaimed national forests--the Nebraska, composed of the Pine Ridge and Bessey Ranger Districts, and the Samuel R. McKelvie, which is managed as part of the Bessey Ranger District. Three national grasslands make up the bulk of the land base. The Oglala National Grassland in northwest Nebraska is managed as part of the Pine Ridge Ranger District. The Buffalo Gap National Grassland is managed as two ranger districts, with the Fall River RD office in Hot Springs, SD and the Wall RD office co-located with the National Grasslands Visitor Center in Wall, SD. The Fort Pierre National Grassland office moved to it’s new location across the Missouri River to Fort Pierre. The final unit is the Charles E. Bessey Nursery, the country’s first federal tree nursery. The nursery headquarters is co-located with the Bessey RD headquarters in central Nebraska.

On July 31, 2002 Rocky Mountain Regional Forester, Rick Cables, signed the Record of Decision to implement a revised management plan for the Nebraska National Forest Units. USDA Deputy Under Secretary David Tenny rendered the final administrative appeal decision upholding the Record of Decision, on May 5, 2004. This monitoring report is the first report to be completed under the new plan. For that reason and the fact that many of the monitoring items have a reporting frequency of five to ten years, evaluation of the monitored items will be somewhat limited. The current emphasis is placed upon collecting baseline and supporting data for future use in helping to determine trend information toward or away from achieving desired conditions. Baseline timeframe for key monitoring items is assumed to be the date the Record of Decision was signed, and will be used in the FY 2005 monitoring Report.

Monitoring Purpose

Effective Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) monitoring and evaluation fosters improved management and more informed planning decisions. It helps identify the need to adjust desired conditions, goals, objectives, standards and guidelines as conditions change. Monitoring and evaluation helps forests, grasslands, the Agency and the public determine how a LRMP is being implemented, whether plan implementation is achieving desired outcomes, and whether assumptions made in the planning process are valid.

Monitoring and evaluation are learning tools that form the backbone of adaptive management. With these tools, information is collected and compiled to serve as reference points for the future; new scientific understanding and technology, changes in law and policy and resource conditions, growing concerns, trends and changing societal values are incorporated into forest/grassland planning; and the scientific validity and appropriateness of assumptions used in the development of forest and grassland plans is evaluated. In short, they breathe life into a static document—the LRMP—to make it dynamic, relevant and useful.

Several kinds of activities can be referred to as “monitoring.” **Programmatic monitoring** tracks and evaluates trends of ecological, social, or economic outcomes. **Project implementation monitoring** monitors compliance with LRMP standards and guidelines. **Effectiveness monitoring** evaluates how effective our management actions are at achieving desired outcomes. **Validation monitoring** verifies assumptions and models used in LRMP implementation. Monitoring may also address issues for large geographic areas of which a forest or grassland is a part. These types of monitoring are addressed in LRMPs.

Monitoring and evaluation are conducted at several scales and for many purposes, each of which has different objectives and requirements. Monitoring requirements and tasks are developed to be responsive to the objectives and scale of the plan, program, or project to be monitored.

Monitoring and evaluation are separate, sequential activities required by NFMA regulations to determine how well objectives have been met and how closely management standards and guidelines have been applied. Monitoring generally includes the collection of data and information, either by observation or measurement. Evaluation is the analysis of the data and information collected during the monitoring phase. The evaluation results are used to answer the monitoring questions, determine the need to revise or amend management plans or how they are implemented, and form a basis for adaptively managing the national grasslands and forests.

Monitoring provides the Forest Supervisor with the information necessary to determine whether the Revised Management Plan is sufficient to guide management of the National Grasslands and Forests for the subsequent year or whether modification of the plan is needed.

Reasons for Monitoring (Monitoring Drivers)

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requires national forests and grasslands to do specific monitoring tasks. The level and intensity of any additional monitoring is dependent on available staffing, funding and forest or grassland priorities.

Following is a list of reasons (monitoring drivers) why certain items are included in a LRMP:

- Legal and regulatory requirements
- Forest Service Manual direction
- Tracking forest/grassland desired conditions, goals and objectives
- Validation of models/assumptions
- Tracking agency expectations
- Tracking public expectations/issues
- Tracking LRMP standards and guidelines
- Contributions to broad-scale monitoring
- Court rulings

Monitoring Priorities

After monitoring questions are developed, a screening process sorts the more significant questions from the less significant to ensure efficient use of limited resources—time, money and personnel. The priority of a question may affect the intensity or extent of associated monitoring activities. Following is a list of questions used in the screening process with a brief explanation or example:

1. **Is there a high degree of uncertainty associated with management assumptions?** *Examples:* (1) a new way of doing something where there is limited experience with the new technique; (2) actions taken in response to an unprecedented situation; (3) a lack of data for a particular resource response to a management action.
2. **Is there a high degree of disparity between existing and desired conditions?** *Examples:* (1) a particular habitat component is at a much lower level than desired; (2) the amount of use of a particular resource or use at a particular location is much higher than desired.
3. **Are proposed management activities likely to affect resources of concern?** There may be other forces affecting a resource much more significantly than anything the Forest Service does. Also, there may be portions of the landscape where no management activities are planned. An efficient monitoring strategy will focus on those circumstances where management activities are expected to have a discernable outcome.
4. **What are the consequences of not knowing resource conditions?** *Examples:* (1) if a species is at risk, consequences could be high, whether or not management activities are likely to affect it; (2) if a relationship with cooperators or local government is at risk due to a management activity, consequences could be high (in this case, a *human* resource).
5. **Will monitoring respond to a key issue?** Key issues identified through scoping may warrant monitoring *even if* they are (1) well understood, (2) the existing condition is good and (3) management activities will have little impact. Monitoring may be necessary for educational and/or accountability purposes.
6. **In addition to the above, can the question be cost effectively answered?** If the cost of answering the question is especially high in regard to benefits, or if an adequate monitoring method cannot be developed, the resource in question may be more appropriately studied by another entity, such as Forest Service research or private educational institutions.

Evaluation Process

The Forest/Grassland ID Team evaluates the data and information collected through monitoring. Successful adaptive management depends on collectively evaluating the effectiveness of management activities in moving the Forest or Grassland toward desired conditions. The “desired condition” (or other driver) that prompted the development of a monitoring question is typically associated with one or more monitoring items. Whereas the desired condition may be conceptual or visionary in nature, the monitoring items are generally a measurable aspect of the desired condition.

Evaluation is the process of transforming data into information—a value-added process. It is a process of synthesis that brings together value, judgment and reason with monitoring information to answer the question, “So what?” and perhaps, “Why?”

As noted earlier, the fact that FY 2004 is the first full year of implementation following the final administrative appeal resolution means that the forest will collect baseline monitoring data, but for many of the items with a five to ten year reporting frequency there is currently too little data to attempt any significant evaluation. There are exceptions; such as effects on adjacent communities of National Forest System management, which is a monitoring item with an annual reporting frequency. Other items with annual reporting frequencies include several Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E) items.

The following Monitoring Strategy outlines in tabular form the type of monitoring (Effectiveness, Implementation, or Validation), the reasons for the particular monitoring (monitoring drivers), monitoring questions, reporting frequency, and monitoring data collected. Please refer to the LRMP, Chapter 4 (Monitoring and Evaluation) for a more complete description of the monitoring strategy and its components. If a district or unit is not listed under a monitoring question the monitoring question was not applicable for that unit.

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EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
LRMP Goal 1.a Objective 2, 3	Riparian 1: To what extent are perennial streams in proper functioning condition and riparian areas and wooded draws regenerating?	Pine Ridge RD	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	Recently revised range allotment plans across the entire Pine Ridge portion of the district will undoubtedly result in continued improvement in watershed conditions and water quality.
		Oglala NG			
		Bessey/ Samuel R. McKelvie	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	Recently revised range allotment plans across the Southeast Geographic Area will undoubtedly result in continued improvement in watershed conditions and water quality.
		Wall RD	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	
LRMP Goal 1.a Objective 1	Soil 1: To what extent have soils eroded or disturbed by Forest Service management or permitted activities been restored?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Bessey/ Samuel R. McKelvie	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Wall RD	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
LRMP Goal 1.a Objective 1	Watershed 1: To what extent has water quality condition on watersheds containing National Forest System lands been restored, maintained or improved?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	The State of Nebraska Water Resources Division continues to monitor water quality conditions and beneficial use attainment in the White River-Hat Creek (White-Hat) River Basin in preparation of the Section 303(d) list of impaired waters. The Pine Ridge Geographic Area is within this Basin area. The State of Nebraska has stated that the implementation of the Rangeland Allotment Management Decision does provide a balance where utilization of the land is allowed but sideboards are established that protect the aquatic resource both in and along the management area as well as downstream in the White - Hat River B.	
		Bessey/ Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed .	
		Wall RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed in FY2004 by the Forest Service. The USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and South Dakota Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) continue their long-term study of the Upper Bad River Watershed Project.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
LRMP Goal 1.a Objective 1	Watershed 2: To what extent have water bodies on National Forest System lands that have been degraded by Forest Service permitted or management actions been restored?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed .	
		Bessey/ Samuel R. McKelvie	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Wall RD	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed .	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed .	
LRMP Goal 1.a Objective 4	Watershed 3: To what extent have instream flows been assured to provide adequate water for fisheries and other riverine flora and fauna in streams and rivers with high resource values?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Bessey/ Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Wall RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
LRMP Goal 1.a Objective 5	Watershed 4: To what extent have surface water, sub-surface flows, and aquifers been protected from contamination from abandoned wells?	Forest-wide		A forest-wide survey of improvements with water rights has been started.	This survey's information will be entered into the NRIS WUT database.
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	One water well was decommissioned and one water well constructed.	Other wells will be decommissioned as funds become available.
		Bessey/ Samuel R. McKelvie	Annually	One water well was decommissioned.	This well was decommissioned as part of the Bessey Recreation Complex water treatment facility
		Fall River RD	Annually	No water wells were decommissioned.	
		Wall RD	Annually	No water wells were decommissioned.	WRD has no known abandoned water wells.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Annually	No water wells were decommissioned.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
Legal: 36 CFR 219.19(a)(6); 36 CFR 219.20; 36 CFR 219.27(5 and 6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 2 & 6	MIS 1: What is the potential habitat capability for each management indicator species?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Ten years	Visual obstruction readings in association with plains sharp-tailed grouse surveys were completed. Surveys were also completed in 2004 for the pygmy nuthatch and black-tailed prairie dog.	VORs were taken at 55 random transects across the District. A total of 5,584 acres were surveyed on the Pine Ridge Geographic Area and a small portion of the Oglala Geographic Area for the pygmy nuthatch. Black-tailed prairie dog colonies were inventoried and locations were identified using GPS. Approximately 2275 acres were recorded on the Oglala National Grassland. Results and documentation maintained in official project files in Supervisor's Office and District Ranger Office in Chadron, NE
		Bessey/ Samuel R. McKelvie	Ten years	Visual obstruction readings in association with plains sharp-tailed grouse surveys were completed on the Samuel R. McKelvie. Display ground surveys for both plains sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chicken were completed on the Samuel R. McKelvie.	Results and documentation maintained in official project files in Supervisor's Office
		Fall River RD	Ten years	Plains sharp-tailed grouse and black-tailed prairie dog = completed several years ago Greater Sage Grouse = analysis underway	Results and documentation maintained in official project files in Supervisor's Office Sage grouse report was completed and is on file at the FRRD office (Hot Springs SD) and at the NNF Supervisors office (Chadron NE).

<p>MIS 1: What is the potential habitat capability for each management indicator species? (continued)</p>	Wall RD	Ten years	Visual obstruction readings in association with plains sharp-tailed grouse surveys were completed.	
	Ft. Pierre NG	Ten years	Management indicator species sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chicken rely on residual vegetative ground cover for initial nesting attempts, which is thought to be an essential life requisite for these species. Grassland rested for two or more years is thought to be the best potential nesting cover. The 2004 growing and grazing seasons provided residual nesting cover for spring 2005. Monitoring during fall 2004 showed that visual obstruction readings in two-year rest pastures was about 5.16", which is about 1 inch lower than the long-term average. The lower potential was due to dry conditions.	Long-term data will be evaluated at the end of 10 years.

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
<p>Legal: 36 CFR 219.19(a)(6); 36 CFR 219.20; 36 CFR 219.27(5 and 6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 2 & 6</p>	<p>MIS 2: What is the current habitat suitability for each management indicator species?</p>	<p>Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG</p>	<p>Five years</p>	<p>Habitat suitability evaluations for plains sharp-tailed grouse across the entire district were completed and documented.</p> <p>Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse = Monitoring consisted of 38,766 acres surveyed on the entire District.</p> <p>Visual Obstruction Readings were recorded for the entire District in 2004 for the Oglala and Pine Ridge Geographic Areas to support MIS sharp-tailed grouse monitoring.</p> <p>Pygmy Nuthatch (Pine Ridge) = A total of 260 hours of field work consisted of surveys on 5,584 acres.</p> <p>Black-tailed Prairie Dog (ONG) = The Oglala NG was inventoried for acres of prairie dogs colonies.</p>	<p>Ten active display ground sites were identified.</p> <p>VORs were taken at 55 random transects across the District. Past habitat suitability evaluations for this area are documented in the Northern Great Plains EIS (Table 3-132) and in the official project files at the District Office, Chadron, NE</p> <p>Additional years of monitoring are needed to establish current habitat suitability levels for plains sharp-tailed grouse.</p> <p>The pygmy nuthatch was found to be distributed across the Pine Ridge Geographic Area and forested portions of the Oglala National Grasslands. Past habitat suitability evaluations for this area are documented in the Northern Great Plains EIS (Table 3-129)</p> <p>A total of 2,271.91 acres of prairie dog colonies were recorded using GPS.</p>

	<p>MIS 2: What is the current habitat suitability for each management indicator species? (continued)</p>	<p>Bessey/ Samuel R. McKelvie</p>	<p>Five years</p>	<p>Habitat suitability evaluations for plains sharp-tailed grouse on the Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest were completed and documented. This monitoring was completed through a partnership with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.</p> <p>Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse (Bessey) = No formal monitoring</p> <p>Greater Prairie Chicken (Bessey) = No formal monitoring</p> <p>Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse (SRM) = No formal monitoring</p> <p>Greater Prairie Chicken (SRM) = monitoring (grassland structure) was completed on approximately 29,000 acres</p>	<p>Additional years of monitoring are needed to establish current habitat suitability levels for plains sharp-tailed grouse.</p> <p>Past habitat suitability evaluations for this area are documented in the Northern Great Plains EIS & Errata (Table 3-129).</p> <p>Past habitat suitability evaluations for this area are documented in the Northern Great Plains EIS (Table 3-130).</p> <p>Past habitat suitability evaluations for this area are documented in the Northern Great Plains EIS & Errata (Table 3-129).</p> <p>Results of the habitat suitability evaluation are documented in an official file report in the Supervisor's Office, Chadron, NE. LRMP direction calls for 40 to 60% of this specie's habitat in this geographic area to be in high structure and suitability. Monitoring in 2002 and 2003 suggests that between 5 to 15% is in high structure and suitability. These results are similar to past monitoring results documented in the Northern Great Plains EIS (Table 3-130)</p>
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<p>MIS 2: What is the current habitat suitability for each management indicator species? (continued)</p>	Fall River RD	Five years	<p>Habitat suitability evaluations for plains sharp-tailed grouse were conducted across the Southeast and Northeast Geographic Areas and documented.</p> <p>Plain's Sharp-tailed Grouse = monitoring (grassland structure) was completed across the Southeast and Northeast Geographic Areas.</p> <p>Black-tailed Prairie Dog = size and distribution of 51 active colonies (3,700 acres) monitored</p> <p>Greater Sage Grouse – Study completed.</p>	<p>Data has been collected and is being compiled. 2004 was a drought year, preliminary results indicate that most of the VOR transect means were below 4 inches.</p> <p>Past monitoring evaluations are documented in the official project files at the District Office in Hot Springs, SD, for the SE (Pioneer) geographic area and in the Northern Great Plains EIS & Errata (Table 3-129).</p> <p>Active colony acreage continues to increase.</p> <p>Sage grouse report was completed and is on file at the FRRD office (Hot Springs SD) and at the NNF Supervisors office (Chadron NE).</p>
	Wall RD	Five years	<p>Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse = monitoring (grassland structure) completed across the entire district</p> <p>Black-tailed Prairie Dog = monitoring of the size and distribution of colonies completed on portions of the district</p>	<p>A habitat suitability evaluation using the 2004 data has not been completed and documented. Past monitoring evaluations are documented in the Northern Great Plains EIS (Table 3-129).</p> <p>Acreage of active colonies continues to increase</p>
	Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	<p>A 10 percent sample of residual nesting cover was completed across entire Ft. Pierre National Grassland.</p> <p>The annual habitat suitability index for Plains sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chickens was approximately .30 based on</p>	

				residual cover from 2003 across the grassland. This was compared to potential cover that could have been available.	
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Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
<p>Legal: 36 CFR 219.19(a)(6); 36 CFR 219.20; 36 CFR 219.27(5 and 6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 2 & 6</p>	<p>MIS 3: What are the long-term population trends for each management indicator species and the relationships between long-term population trends and the effects of management activities on habitats on NFS lands?</p>	<p>Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG</p>	<p>Five years</p>	<p>Display ground surveys for sharp-tailed grouse were conducted across the entire district.</p> <p>Pygmy Nuthatch (Pine Ridge) = A total of 260 hours of field work consisted of surveys on 5,584 acres.</p> <p>Black-tailed Prairie Dog (ONG) = The Oglala NG was inventoried for acres of prairie dogs colonies.</p>	<p>The monitoring dataset is currently insufficient to detect long-term population trends in response to management activities.</p> <p>The monitoring dataset is currently insufficient to detect long-term population trends in response to management activities.</p> <p>Population trends for the black-tailed prairie dogs in 2004 show an upward trend.</p>
		<p>Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie</p>	<p>Five years</p>	<p>No formal monitoring completed.</p>	
		<p>Fall River RD</p>	<p>Five years</p>	<p>Plain's Sharp-tailed Grouse =Two monitoring unites were established to monitor long term population trends of plains sharp-tailed grouse. One 9,000 acre unit in the Southeast Geographic Area and a 10,000 acre unit in the Northeast Geographic Area. The areas were surveyed and all grouse leks recorded.</p> <p>Black-tailed Prairie Dog (FRRD) Black-tailed Prairie Dog = size and distribution of 51 active colonies (3,700 acres) monitored</p> <p>Sage Grouse – monitoring of the display ground was completed</p>	<p>The monitoring dataset is currently insufficient to detect long-term population trends in response to management activities</p> <p>Active colony acreage continues to increase.</p> <p>No grouse were observed on the display ground for the first time since monitoring was initiated; could reflect effects of west Nile virus</p>

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
	<p>MIS 3: What are the long-term population trends for each mgmt indicator species and the relationships between long-term population trends and the effects of management activities on habitats on NFS lands? (continued)</p>	Wall RD	Five years	<p>Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse monitoring to determine location of display grounds was completed across approximately 53,135 acres.</p> <p>Black-tailed Prairie Dog monitoring of the size and distribution of colonies was completed on a portion of the district</p>	<p>Systematic surveys occurred from 2000 to 2005 across the district. Collectively, 156,436 acres have been surveyed on the district, wherein 28 leks have been identified. Over 100,000 acres have yet to be surveyed. Five-year summary report of grouse lek surveys available on district. Data set insufficient for evaluation of long-term population trend.</p> <p>Acreeage of active colonies continues to increase.</p>
Ft. Pierre NG		Five years	<p>On a Ft. Pierre National Grassland 18,000-acre monitoring unit, male prairie chickens were up 22 percent in spring 2004. Male sharp-tailed grouse were up 47 percent. The population had dipped in 2002. However, the long-term population trend has generally been upward. Grouse wings collected from hunters showed that these species both had a successful nesting/brooding-rearing season in 2004.</p> <p>Black-tailed prairie dog colonies covered about 700 Ft. Pierre National Grassland acres in 1999. Recent surveys have showed about 1340 acres occupied by the rodents.</p>		

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 1, 2, 4 & 7	T&E 1: To what extent are NFS lands and their management contributing to the recovery and viability of black-footed ferrets?	Fall River RD	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	Black-footed ferrets have not been reintroduced in the District's 3.63 Management Area in Smithwick. Prairie dog acreage continues to expand in this MA.
		Wall RD	Annually	Systematic monitoring in Conata Basin was completed.	Currently, BFF populations have been established on three prairie dog complexes scattered across Conata Basin with a wild, free-roaming population of over 200 ferrets. This ferret population has contributed greatly to the species recovery and is considered the only viable population in the wild.
USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(5); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 1, 2, 4, 7, & 9	T&E 2: To what extent are NFS lands and their management contributing to the recovery and viability of blowout penstemon?	Bessey/ Samuel R. McKelvie	Annually	150 plants planted on Bessey and 150 plants planted on McKelvie.	Survival of the plants will be evaluated in 2005.

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
Migratory Bird Treaty Act; Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act; USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 1, 2, 4 & 7	T&E 3: To what extent are NFS lands and their management contributing to the recovery and viability of bald eagle?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Fall River RD	Annually	Systematic monitoring completed along Cheyenne River	No known nesting attempts. 7 mature and 7 immature bald eagles were observed
		Wall RD	Annually	Incidental Sightings	No known nesting occurs on the Wall Ranger District. Bald eagles have been sited occasionally roosting along the Cheyenne River and in the Conata Basin area on the Wall Ranger District. In addition, there have been occasional sightings of bald eagles hunting on the prairie dog towns in the Conata Basin area.
USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 1, 2, 4 & 7	T&E 4: To what extent are NFS lands and their management contributing to the recovery and viability of the American burying beetle?	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Annually	Four beetles were trapped and released at Bessey during July and August. Two beetles were trapped and released at McKelvie in August.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
Migratory Bird Treaty Act; USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 1, 2, 4 and 7	T&E 5: To what extent are NFS lands and their management contributing to the recovery and viability of whooping crane?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Fall River RD	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Wall RD	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act; USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 1, 2, 4 & 7	T&E 6: To What Extent are NFS Lands and Their Management Contributing to the Recovery and Viability of Mountain Plover?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Fall River RD	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Wall RD	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	One observation was reported to the SD GF&P. Sighting occurred on 7/14/04 in the Conata Basin.

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(5); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, & 9	T&E 7: Does Ute ladies' tresses or potential habitat for the species occur on the NFS lands within the planning area?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act; USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(5 & 6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objective 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 & 9	Viability 1: To what extent are National Forest System Lands and their management contributing to the viability of sensitive plant and animal species that are generally found in grassland and sagebrush habitats?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	BBS was conducted on PRRD by Forest Service wildlife biologist. Contracted services conducted a BBS on the ONG. A detailed general floristic inventory was conducted and is still in progress on the Oglala National grassland.	Data was insufficient to draw monitoring conclusions but will be used to help establish a baseline for future monitoring results. Dataset does provide some distribution information of sensitive grassland/shrubland bird species. A total of 48 sites on the ONG were sampled during the 2004 season. Specimens are still being identified. A preliminary report can be found at the Pine Ridge Ranger District.
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	VOR readings done at McKelvie on the sands/sandy sites for 8016 acres. Inventory of sharp-tail grouse and greater prairie chicken leks.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
	Viability 1: To what extent are National Forest System Lands and their management contributing to the viability of sensitive plant and animal species that are generally found in grassland and sagebrush habitats? (Continued)	Fall River RD	Five years	Six BBS routes were conducted on FRRD by Forest Service wildlife biologist in 2004. Monitoring of sagebrush habitats, sage grouse and Brewer's sparrow occurrence completed	Data was insufficient to draw monitoring conclusions but will be used to help establish a baseline for future monitoring results. Dataset does provide some distribution information of sensitive grassland/shrub land bird species Sage grouse report was completed and is on file at the FRRD office (Hot Springs SD) and at the NNF Supervisors office (Chadron NE).
		Wall RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	Ft. Pierre National Grassland has no habitats dominated by big sagebrush (ME27).
Migratory Bird Treaty Act; USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(5 & 6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objective 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 & 9	Viability 2: To what extent are National Forest System Lands and their management contributing to the viability of sensitive plant and animal species that are generally found in riparian and wetland habitats?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Fall River RD	Five years	Systematic monitoring was completed along Cheyenne River. No monitoring completed on wetlands.	Yellow-billed cuckoo, loggerhead shrikes, and a goshawk, observed
		Wall RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(5 & 6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 & 9	Viability 3: To what extent are National Forest System Lands and their management contributing to the viability of sensitive plant and animal species that are found in aquatic habitats?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Fall River RD	Five years	Herpetological monitoring completed in 6 small impoundments	Northern leopard frog observed; monitoring and evaluation report not completed
		Wall RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	The sensitive northern leopard frog lives and reproduces in most of the wetlands on Ft. Pierre National Grassland that hold year-long water.	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act; USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(5 & 6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objective 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 & 9	Viability 4: To what extent are National Forest System Lands and their management contributing to the viability of sensitive plant and animal species that are generally found in forested habitats?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Pygmy Nuthatch (Pine Ridge) = A total of 260 hours of field work consisted of surveys on 5,584 acres.	The monitoring dataset is currently insufficient to detect long-term population trends in response to management activities.
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Fall River RD	Five years	Systematic monitoring was completed along Cheyenne River. No monitoring completed on wetlands.	Yellow-billed cuckoo, loggerhead shrikes, and a goshawk, observed
		Wall RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
Migratory Bird Treaty Act; USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objective 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 & 9	Viability 5: To what extent are National Forest System Lands and their management contributing to the viability of sensitive animal species that are heavily dependent on prairie dog colony habitat?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Black-tailed Prairie Dog (ONG) = The Oglala NG was inventoried for acres of prairie dogs colonies.	A total of 2,271 acres were inventoried. Population trends for the black-tailed prairie dogs in 2004 show an upward trend.
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	The acres of prairie dogs were surveyed. Burrowing owls were monitored.	
		Fall River RD	Five years	Monitoring completed across portions of the district. Complete inventory was completed in the West Geographic area and colonies scheduled for control we GPS's on the rest of the District	Prairie dog populations and acreages are on an upward trend in areas not controlled. Close to 6,000 acres were controlled using ZnPh treated oats.
		Wall RD	Five years	Monitoring completed across portions of the district.	Prairie dog populations and acreages are on an upward trend. Current status of prairie dog acres in Conata Basin is approximately 20,300 acres in 2004 compared to 9,700 acres in 1999. The prairie dog acreages on the WRD, especially in Conata Basin, have contributed to the viability of the burrowing owl and swift fox.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	The grassland supports 1340 acres of occupied black-tailed prairie dog habitat, spread over more than 35 colonies. Even the small towns provide nesting and feeding areas for western burrowing owls. Ferruginous hawks search for food on these prey-rich sites.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
Migratory Bird Treaty Act; USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(5 & 6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objective 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 & 9	Viability 6: To what extent are National Forest System Lands and their management contributing to the viability of sensitive plant and animal species that are generally found in special habitats like caves, cliffs, buttes, blowouts, and barren habitats?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Surveys across the Oglala National Grassland were conducted in 2004 for sensitive species associated with low vegetative structure.	A total of 25,293 acres were surveyed based on low VORs taken earlier in the year. Nine sensitive species were observed and recorded. Results can be found at the Pine Ridge Ranger District.
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Wall RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(6); LRMP Goal 1.b	Viability 7: To what extent have cooperative agreements and the landownership adjustment program been effective in reducing private land conflicts involving prairie dogs and enhancing long-term opportunities for development of prairie dog colony complexes in the priority National Grassland areas.	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No land exchange activities involving prairie dog management objectives.	
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No land exchange activities involving prairie dog management objectives.	
		Fall River RD	Five years	No land exchange activities involving prairie dog management objectives.	
		Wall RD	Five years	No land exchange activities involving prairie dog management objectives.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No land exchange activities involving prairie dog management objectives.	One such land exchange is being worked on.

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
36 CFR 219.20; LRMP Management Areas 3.58 & 3.51	Wildlife 1: Is habitat effectiveness on designated big game range being maintained or enhanced?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Cooperative meetings and discussions with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission occurred in 2004 regarding general management of Management Area 3.51 and bighorn sheep management, elk, and pronghorn management.	

<p>Legal 36 CFR 219.7(f); LRMP Goal 1.c Objective 5, LRMP Goal 4.b Public & Organizational Relations Objective 2</p>	<p>Community Relations 1: To what extent are noxious weeds, invasive species, and animal damage spreading from National Forest System lands to other ownerships or from lands managed by other government agencies to National Forest System lands?</p> <p>Community Relations 1: To what</p>	<p>Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG</p>	<p>Five years</p>	<p>Eight .25 acre plots were read in ponderosa pine on the Pine Ridge in various areas to provide pre and post treatment data for thinning and prescribed fire treatments.</p> <p>Noxious weeds continue to encroach to and from private and state owned land from and to NFS lands primarily along wildlife/livestock travel routes, streams, and by wind blown seeds. Total actual acres of noxious weed spread from and to other ownerships have not been determined.</p> <p>Dawes County and Sioux Counties both received grant funding (total \$42,800) through the Nebraska State and Private Forestry and Forest Service to control noxious weeds adjacent to federal lands.</p> <p>Prairie dog colony expansion on the Oglala National Grassland was monitored in 2004 and indicates that the acres of prairie dog colonies was 1,276 acres in 2002 and grew to 2,271 acres. Prairie dog colony expansion from NFS lands to adjacent private lands is occurring on some of the colonies.</p>	<p>Data has been collected, but not yet been evaluated or analyzed.</p> <p>Noxious weed infestations are mapped on 1:24000 scale maps annually as well all herbicide treatment data. All records are on file at the Pine Ridge Ranger District.</p> <p>Annual reports are provided to the Nebraska State Forester and Forest Service Regional Office. Reports are also on file at the Pine Ridge Ranger District.</p> <p>A report can be found at the Pine Ridge Ranger District.</p>
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	<p>extent are noxious weeds, invasive species, and animal damage spreading from National Forest System lands to other ownerships or from lands managed by other government agencies to National Forest System lands? (continued)</p>	<p>Bessey/ Samuel R. McKelvie</p>	<p>Five years</p>	<p>1) Two .25 acre plots in ponderosa pine plantations were read and provided data for one year post thinning conditions, including the presence of non-native species.</p> <p>2) One plot was installed in an Eastern Red Cedar plantation to provide post-thinning data.</p> <p>3) West SS. One plot was read to provide first growing season post treatment data on an area of grassland that had cedar encroachment and was burned in March of 2004. Additionally, three transects and six photo points were used to monitor overall mortality of the Eastern Red Cedar on the West SS burn.</p>	<p>1) Generally, the annual species which showed up are native annuals, including sunflowers and Chenopods. Small amounts of annual brome were found, but not in quantities that are of concern at this time.</p> <p>2) There were no non-native species documented in the plot.</p> <p>3) Invasive/noxious weed species do not appear to be increasing in the area/s being monitored.</p> <p>The objective of the prescribed burn of 75% mortality of Eastern Red Cedar was met based on the data obtained from the .25 acre plot, three transects, and photo points.</p>
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	<p>Community Relations 1: To what extent are noxious weeds, invasive</p>	<p>Fall River RD</p>	<p>Five years</p>	<p>South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks conducted limited predator control on the national grasslands where predation was occurring on adjoining lands.</p> <p>Eight plots were read on the Hardpan allotment. Five provide two year post-burn data as required in the burn plan. Three provide pre-burn data for a planned broadcast burn.</p> <p>1) Three plots are in the Cheyenne River valley, five are on upland areas dominated by Western Wheatgrass.</p> <p>2) Of these five, one was fenced out from grazing immediately after the burn; one is in an area that was not burned but continued to be grazed, and three were both burned and grazed.</p>	<p>Forest Service personnel coordinated with the state to help ensure appropriate and effective responses to livestock producer complaints regarding predator damage.</p> <p>1) These three plots are showing an overall decrease in desired species (primarily Switchgrass, Prairie Sandreed and Western Wheatgrass) and an increase in annual bromes (primarily Japanese Brome).</p> <p>2) Prairie dogs have moved into two of the plots in the upland area. The plot that was fenced after the burn has a significantly higher sedge component than the others. Additional analysis of the data collected has not yet been completed.</p>
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species, and animal damage spreading from National Forest System lands to other ownerships or from lands managed by other government agencies to National Forest System lands? (continued)	Wall RD	Five years	<p>South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks conducted limited predator control on the national grasslands where predation was occurring on adjoining lands.</p> <p>Noxious weeds, especially Canada thistle, have been spreading from the Badlands National Park to the National Grasslands and adjoining private lands. Both the BNP and FS have initiated monitoring on the spread of Canada thistle.</p> <p>Prairie dog acreages have increased in 2004 due to drought. Wall Ranger District is working to monitor prairie dog colonies adjacent to private lands. In addition, approximately 3400 acres of prairie dog colonies on the WRD were controlled in the Conata Basin to reduce conflicts with private land.</p>	Forest Service personnel coordinated with the state to help ensure appropriate and effective responses to livestock producer complaints regarding predator damage.
	Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	<p>Prairie dog acreages have increased in 2004 due to drought. The district is working to monitor prairie dog colonies adjacent to private lands</p>	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
Legal 36 CFR 219.12(k)5(iv); LRMP Goal 1c Objective 5	Damage Control 1: To what extent are destructive insect and disease outbreaks prevented following management activities? (See also Community 1)	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Aerial detection surveys completed by Forest Health Protection indicated reduced numbers of fading tree crowns on the Pine Ridge District.	Indicates less mortality due to <i>Ips</i> beetle attacks in 2004.
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	Aerial detection surveys completed by Forest Health Protection indicated moderate to high levels of <i>Ips</i> beetle activity on the Bessey District. Though no jack pine budworm activity was detected, past infestations have likely weakened trees, increasing the success of <i>Ips</i> attacks. Additional contributing factors may have included drought, hail injury and Diplodia tip blight caused by the May 2004 storm. Insect and disease activity appeared stable on the S.R. McKelvie National Forest.	
		Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	No destructive insect or disease outbreaks were observed during field visits.
		Wall RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	No destructive insect or disease outbreaks were observed during field visits.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	No destructive insect or disease outbreaks were observed during field visits.

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
LRMP Goal 1.c Objective 5, LRMP Goal 4.b Public & Organizational Relations Objectives 2	Damage Control 2: To what extent are noxious weeds, invasive species, and animal damage expanding or being reduced?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	<p>Noxious weed mapping and treatment in 2004 resulted in 280 acres of Canada thistle, leafy spurge, bind weed, hounds tongue and Scotch thistle on the Oglala Geographic Area. Overall the leafy spurge population on West Ash Drainage and Canada thistle populations on Big Bordeaux Drainage of the PRGA have been reduced dramatically both in area and population density over the last 20 years. Historically and current data was evaluated (photos, maps and pesticide use records).</p> <p>Prairie dog colony expansion on the Oglala National Grassland was monitored in 2004 and indicates that the acres of prairie dog colonies was 1,276 acres in 2002 and grew to 2,271 acres. Prairie dog colony expansion from NFS lands to adjacent private lands is occurring on some of the colonies. An EIS was initiated in late FY 2004 to address encroachment of prairie dogs onto adjacent private land.</p>	<p>A report can be found at the Pine Ridge Ranger District.</p> <p>A report can be found at the Pine Ridge Ranger District.</p>
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	Leafy spurge and Canada thistle were sprayed on both Bessey and McKelvie for a total of 50 acres.	
		Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	

	Damage Control 2: To what extent are noxious weeds, invasive species, and animal damage expanding or being reduced? (continued)	Wall RD	Five years	Noxious weed mapping and treatment in 2004 :2200 acres of Canada thistle, 700 acres of hoary cress, and 100 acres of Russian Knapweed. The recent establishment of the Badlands Weed Management Group has helped immensely in the development of a coordinated effort to reduce noxious weeds in Eastern Pennington County and Jackson County. This group consists of federal, state and local agencies working with private landowners.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
LRMP Goal 1.c Objective 1; LRMP Goal 2.c Wildlife, Fish, & Plant Use Objective 2	Vegetation 1: To what extent are rangeland vegetation structure objectives being met?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Drought management practices were again in place (livestock went on June 1 or later, less livestock numbers, modified rotations, no-use). Utilization levels and drought monitoring was done on 90% of the allotments.	The rangeland vegetation responded very favorably to management. However, both areas received very timely and above normal precipitation.
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	VOR data was collected at McKelvie for the Sands and Sandy sites.	
		Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	
		Wall RD	Five years	The district has established a random stratified sampling of vegetation structure across the three geographic areas. This sampling protocol monitors VORs vegetation structure on nearly 30,000 acres annually.	2004 is the second year of data for the analysis of how WRD is meeting the desired levels of vegetation structure.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
LRMP Goal 1.c Objective 1; LRMP Goal 2.c Wildlife, Fish, & Plant Use Objective 2	Vegetation 2: To what extent are rangeland vegetation composition objectives being met?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Wall RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
Post thinning stand exams were completed for part of the thinning completed in 2003	Vegetation 3: To what extent are desired vegetation conditions in forested areas being met?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Wall RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
LRMP Goal 1.c Objective 1; LRMP Goal 2.c Wildlife, Fish, & Plant Use Objective 2	Vegetation 4: To what extent are desired vegetation conditions in wetlands being met?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Wall RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
LRMP Goal 2.a Objective 1, 7	Recreation 1: To what extent are trails managed to meet regional standards and to minimize conflicts among users.	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	<p>Travel Management was started in 2004 with numerous public meetings to obtain recreation user input.</p> <p>Approximately 1/3 of the district's trail miles were walked and evaluated for needed maintenance.</p> <p>Discussions with individual users were held throughout the summer. Visitor satisfaction and questions on maintenance were asked.</p>	<p>Recreation needs were determined and will be considered when preparing the future Travel Management document.</p> <p>Where trails didn't meet standards trail maintenance was completed.</p> <p>When recommendations were presented the feasibility and it's appropriateness in meeting the district's goals and objective were evaluated. When applicable the recommendation was implemented.</p>
		Bessey/ Samuel R. McKelvie	Annually	<p>Travel Management was started in 2004 with numerous public meetings to obtain recreation user input.</p> <p>Approximately 1/3 of the district's trail miles were walked and evaluated for needed maintenance.</p> <p>Discussions with individual users were held throughout the summer. Visitor satisfaction and questions on maintenance were asked.</p>	<p>Recreation needs were determined and will be considered when preparing the future Travel Management document.</p> <p>Where trails didn't meet standards trail maintenance was completed.</p> <p>When recommendations were presented the feasibility and it's appropriateness in meeting the district's goals and objective were evaluated. When applicable the recommendation was implemented.</p>
		Wall RD	Annually	The Prairie Bike Trail had any missing or damaged trail signs replaced and needed trail maintenance done.	No conflicts reported.

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
LRMP Goal 2.a Objective 4 & 6	Recreation 2: Where does the demand for recreation opportunities warrant development of additional opportunities such as trails or campgrounds?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Travel Management was start in 2004 with numerous public meetings to obtain recreation user input. No formal monitoring for campground opportunities was completed.	There is demand for motorized trails that will be addressed in the travel management plan. Presently the services at our campgrounds are being reduced with the possibility of one campground being closed.
		Bessey/ Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	Travel Management was start in 2004 with numerous public meetings to obtain recreation user input. No formal monitoring for campground opportunities was completed.	There is demand for motorized trails that will be addressed in the travel management plan.
		Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Wall RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
Legal - National Historic Preservation Act; LRMP Goal 2.a Objectives 2, 3, & 4, LRMP Goal 2b Heritage Objectives 2 & 5, LRMP Goal 2c Geologic and Paleontologic Resources Objective 3 & Wildlife, Fish & Plant Use Objective 1, LRMP Goal 4a Objective 2	Recreation 3: To what extent are Grassland and Forest visitors informed of the recreation opportunities available to them; are they adequately guided to those recreation opportunities; and do they receive adequate interpretive information on National Register of Historic Places and other heritage sites, geologic, paleontologic, wildlife, plant, and recreation resources or opportunities?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	The district has visitor maps of the district available.	
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	The district has visitor maps of the district available.	
		Fall River RD	Five years	The district has visitor maps of the district available.	
		Wall RD	Five years	The Wall Ranger District has revised the operational plan for the National Grasslands Visitor Center. The days and hours of operation have been modified to improve the cost efficiency while maintaining quality customer service levels. The Visitor Center maintains a customer comment book for feedback on the quality of customer service. Feedback from the visitors indicates that a high quality of customer service remains, even with the adjustments in staffing and operational hours.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	FPNG is a popular hunting area for prairie grouse. The grassland is mentioned in many hunting and bird dog magazines along with being mentioned several times on Tony Dean's website. South Dakota Dept of Tourism and SD Game, Fish and Parks also help to steer recreationists to the grassland.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
36 CFR 219.21 (g) 36 CFR 295.2 &.5 LRMP Goal 2.a & 4.a	Travel and Access 1: What are the effects of vehicle use off roads?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Two years	No formal monitoring completed.	Travel Management was start in 2004 with numerous public meetings to obtain recreation user input.
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Two years	No formal monitoring completed	Travel Management was start in 2004 with numerous public meetings to obtain recreation user input.
		Fall River RD	Two years	No formal monitoring completed	
		Wall RD	Two years	No formal monitoring completed	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Two years	No formal monitoring completed	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
Legal - National Historic Preservation Act; LRMP Goal 2.b Heritage Objectives 2 & 5	Heritage 1: To what extent are National Register sites and districts being protected and preserved?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Hudson-Meng Bison Bone bed (25SX115) was visited numerous times during FY 2004. One new project was requested in the vicinity. The Nebraska State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) was consulted. The site is being fully protected and preserved. No incidents of vandalism were reported or observed. Hudson-Meng is open to the public and tours are available.	Numerous sites on the Forest are evaluated as eligible to the NRHP. No eligible sites were monitored during FY 2004. All eligible sites were avoided during FY 2004 project activities. The Nebraska and South Dakota SHPOs were consulted prior to project implementation.
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	Historic Bessey Nursery (TM00-1/25TM11) was visited numerous times during FY 2004. Four new projects were requested within the boundary and in the vicinity of the district during the year. SHPO was consulted in all instances. The site is being fully protected and preserved. No incidents of vandalism were reported or observed.	Nursery tours are available to the public and interpretive panels are in place. An interpretation plan is being prepared for the Bessey Ranger District. One component of this plan will focus on interpretation of the Historic Nursery.
LRMP Goal 2.b Heritage Objective 3	Heritage 2: To what extent are traditional cultural properties being protected?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	No known traditional cultural properties.
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	No known traditional cultural properties.
		Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	No known traditional cultural properties.
		Wall RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	No known traditional cultural properties.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	No known traditional cultural properties.

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
LRMP Goal 2.b	Special Interest Areas: To what extent have the special features found Special Interest Areas been conserved or enhanced?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	<p>Toadstool Park SIA: During 1999-2004, Florida Museum of Natural History (FMNH) has been collecting fossils for educational and research purposes through a program called Pony Express. Dr. Richard Franz, FMNH, is now conducting research on the tortoises found in the White River Group on the ONG. In 2004, Dr. Franz collected 12 tortoises. His work is complementing the tortoise research conducted by Dr. Mike Leite Chadron State College, who also has a permit to collect fossils on the ONG. Dr. Mike Leite, Dr. Joe Corsini, and students have recorded over 700 tortoise sites.</p> <p>Dr. Al Sanders, The Charleston Museum, has been permitted to collect since 2002. In 2004 field season, 200 specimens were collected.</p> <p>A fossil theft was discovered and prosecuted. A fine of \$6,000 was leveled against the 3 defendants. These funds came back to the NNF and are being used for research between University of South Carolina (Matt Kohn) and Temple University (Dennis Terry) for geochemical and rare earth analysis.</p>	<p>Dr, Richard Franz is trying to unravel the systematic problems within the paleontological nomenclature for Tertiary age tortoises.</p> <p>Theft of these tortoise resources is continually being reported.</p> <p>Dr. Sanders's research focuses on the comparison of the equivalent geologic units exposed in South Carolina, by utilizing microfaunal species.</p> <p>Another theft case has been initiated and investigation is continued.</p>
		Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	The special orders have not been written and approved, to commence monitoring activities regarding fossil collection in these areas.

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
LRMP Goal 2.b	Research Natural Areas: To what extent have the unique research features of Research Natural Areas been conserved or enhanced?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No formal monitoring was completed.	
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring was completed.	
		Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring was completed.	
		Wall RD	Five years	No formal monitoring was completed.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	Grazing has begun in the 1,030-acre Mallard RNA. The area is not grazed between June 15 and September 30 to keep cattle from congregating in the hardwood draw during the hot part of the summer. Canada thistle, a noxious weed, is annually controlled.	No evaluation has yet been completed.
LRMP Goal 2.b	Wilderness: To what extent are the Soldier Creek Wilderness special features and communities of special concern conserved or enhanced?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No formal monitoring was completed.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
LRMP Goal 2.b	Recommended for Wilderness: To what extent are the Red Shirt and Indian Creek Recommended for Wilderness special features and communities of special concern conserved or enhanced?	Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring was completed.	
		Wall RD	Five years	In 2004, the Wall Ranger District worked closely with law enforcement to monitor travel management and the fossil resources in the Indian Creek Recommended for Wilderness area.	

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
Legal 36 CFR 219.7(f); LRMP Goal 2.c	Community Relations 2: What are the effects of National Forest System Management on adjacent communities?	Forest-wide	Annually	<p>Sixteen news releases were generated on a variety of topics and distributed to local area media markets.</p> <p>Technical assistance</p> <p>The Forest Fire Management officer conducted basic fire fighter training for 15 college students allowing them to qualify for wild land fire fighter positions.</p> <p>The public affairs specialist provided and supported presentations to several groups and organizations regarding forest programs and activities. He also provided communications counsel and expertise for a successful non-partisan economic development election.</p> <p>The zone paleontologist provided presentations and to several school groups and organizations regarding the paleontological program and fossil protection.</p> <p>Grants and Agreements</p> <p>In FY2004 the Forest participated in 33 new agreements worth over \$644,000 including partner contributions of \$244,000.</p>	<p>Adjacent communities were kept informed of activities occurring on the national forests and grasslands in a timely manner.</p> <p>The Forest Service employs professionals in a variety of fields who accept invitations to share their knowledge of natural resource management and technical expertise. This expertise is a resource that adds value to the educational experiences provided by local school systems and benefits other aspects of communities near the national forests and grasslands.</p> <p>Communities and counties near the national forests and grasslands have opportunities to leverage their resources through a variety of agreements such as co-op fire, co-op law enforcement, road maintenance and grants, among others.</p>

Community Relations 2: What are the effects of National Forest System Management on adjacent communities?
(continued)

<p>Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG</p>		<p>Between the Forest Supervisor's Office and the Pine Ridge Ranger District, there are 41 permanent and 20 seasonal employees with a combined payroll of \$1.93 million going into the Chadron/Crawford, NE area economy.</p> <p>Nine hazardous fuels treatment projects totaling 600 acres were completed on private lands adjacent or nearby the national forest using Forest Service funding through the Stevens grant program in the amount of over \$114,000.</p> <p>Contracts for road maintenance and miscellaneous projects included over \$23,000 in fiscal year 2004.</p> <p>Payments to counties from receipts generated on national forests and grasslands (primarily livestock grazing) included for Dawes County, \$10,049.18 from national forest receipts and \$763.08 from national grassland receipts. Sioux County received \$830.65 from receipts generated on national forest lands and \$2,927.31 from national grassland receipts.</p> <p>Grazing fees for 2004 were \$1.43 per animal unit month on national forests, and \$1.52 per animal unit month on national grasslands. Counties receive 25% of the gross receipts generated on national forests and 25% of net receipts generated on national grasslands.</p>	<p>The Forest Service contributes significantly to the local area economy of northwest Nebraska in a variety of ways. Contributions include direct funding assistance through grants and payments for receipts generated, and indirectly through salaries, contracts for maintenance and construction, and supplies and services.</p>
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Community Relations 2: What are the effects of National Forest System Management on adjacent communities?
(continued)

<p>Bessey/ Samuel R. McKelvie</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>Bessey Nursery and Bessey Ranger District, including Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest have a combined workforce of 13 permanent and 30 temporary employees for a combined payroll of \$508,000.</p> <p>Local area contractors received over \$25,000 for road maintenance and culvert installation on the forest road system.</p> <p>Contracts to repair storm damage amounted to nearly \$103,000. Contractors used local motels and restaurants while completing the contract work.</p> <p>Infra structure improvements on the forest that provide indirect benefits to the local area include a new bunkhouse completed with local subcontractors for \$551,000, a new wastewater treatment facility on the forest for \$428,000, and architecture and engineering contracts for a new office and upgraded recreation facilities for \$64,000.</p> <p>Payments to counties from receipts generated on national forests (primarily livestock grazing) included: Blaine County--\$893.78, Cherry County--\$19,260.93, and Thomas County—6,772.44.</p> <p>Grazing fees for 2004 were \$1.43 per animal unit month on national forests. Counties receive 25% of the gross receipts generated on national forests.</p>	<p>In addition to the direct benefits to the local area economy from the jobs provided and salaries generated, the Bessey District was in 2004, and will continue to be in 2005, the focus for significant contract funding for new and improved facilities.</p>
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Community Relations 2: What are the effects of National Forest System Management on adjacent communities?
(continued)

Fall River RD	Annually	<p>Fall River Ranger District has a combined staff of 11 permanent and 11 temporary employees for a combined payroll of \$498,000 benefiting the southwest South Dakota economy.</p> <p>Payments to counties from receipts generated on national grasslands (primarily livestock grazing) included: Fall River County-\$7,780.39, and Custer County--\$1910.25. <i>Pennington county figures-see Wall RD total.</i> Grazing fees for 2004 were \$1.52 per animal unit month on national grasslands. Counties receive 25% of the net receipts generated on national grasslands.</p>	Salaries generated by Fall River Ranger District are a significant contributor to the local area economy of the Hot Springs, SD area.
Wall RD	Annually	<p>Wall Ranger District has a combined staff of eight permanent and eight temporary employees, for an annual payroll of over \$293,000.</p> <p>In 2004, the District continued to work with the Wall School District to receive Federal Impact Aid from the Dept. of Education.</p> <p>Payments to counties from receipts generated on national grasslands (primarily livestock grazing) included: Jackson County-\$3550.39, and Pennington County--\$6642.13.</p> <p>Grazing fees for 2004 were \$1.52 per animal unit month on national grasslands. Counties receive 25% of the net receipts generated on national grasslands.</p>	Salaries generated by the Wall Ranger District are a significant contributor to the Wall, SD area economy.

	<p>Community Relations 2: What are the effects of National Forest System Management on adjacent communities? (continued)</p>	Ft. Pierre NG	Annually	<p>Fort Pierre National Grassland has a combined staff of six permanent and four temporary employees for a combined payroll of \$222,000.</p> <p>The FS cooperated with Jones County to place \$5000 worth of aggregate on the county road to the popular Richland Wildlife Area on the national grassland. This will continue in future years.</p> <p>The Grassland has been recognized repeatedly in local, regional, and national publications for its progressive management which provides a healthy population of greater prairie chicken. The publicity brings wildlife viewers and hunters from across the country to the Pierre/Ft. Pierre area.</p> <p>Payments to counties from receipts generated on national grasslands (primarily livestock grazing) included: Jones County--\$758.82, Lyman County—\$2,309.29, and Stanley County--\$1358.66.</p> <p>Grazing fees for 2004 were \$1.52 per animal unit month on national grasslands. Counties receive 25% of the net receipts generated on national grasslands.</p>	<p>The Fort Pierre National Grassland's reputation as an area where wildlife viewers and hunters can pursue greater prairie chicken on public land provides direct economic benefits to local service industries.</p>
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Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004	Evaluation
LRMP Goal 2.c Miscellaneous Products Objective 1	Miscellaneous Products 1: To what extent is the demand for miscellaneous products being met?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No Miscellaneous Forest Products issued this year.	No requests from the public were made for these types of permits.
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	Eight (8) Miscellaneous Forest products permits were issued by the Bessey District staff.	Permits were issued at the request of public. No compliance issues were reported.
		Fall River RD	Five years	No Miscellaneous Forest Products issued this year.	No requests from the public were made for these types of permits.
		Wall RD	Five years	No Miscellaneous Forest Products issued this year.	No requests from the public were made for these types of permits.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No Miscellaneous Forest Products issued this year.	No requests from the public were made for these types of permits.
LRMP Goal 2.c Scenery Objective 1	Scenery 1: To what extent have scenery management objectives been met?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No formal monitoring was completed.	A number of NEPA documents that were prepared in 2004 addressed scenery management and the effects of the individual projects on the scenery management objectives.
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring was completed.	
		Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Wall RD	Five years	No formal monitoring was completed.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring was completed.	

IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004
Endangered Species Act; LRMP Goal 4b Public and Organizational Relations Objective 2	T&E: Are actions identified in national recovery plans for threatened and endangered species being implemented where opportunities exist on national grasslands and forests?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	Not applicable.
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Annually	The blowout penstemon recovery plan for the Forest Service to plant and monitor plants. Monitoring of blowout penstemon transplants continued.
		Fall River RD	Annually	Not applicable
		Wall RD	Annually	Black-footed Ferret Recovery Plan The Wall Ranger District is actively working with the FWS and Badlands National Park in the recovery and reintroduction of the endangered black-footed ferret.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Annually	A land exchange is in progress in northeast FPNG that will consolidate landownership. This will help create a prairie dog complex, which may eventually provide a black-footed ferret nursery habitat area.

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004
Agency Expectations; Public Expectations & Issues. LRMP Goal 3 Objectives 1, 2, & 3	Administration: Are the action plans identified in the objectives being completed on schedule?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	No formal monitoring completed
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Annually	300 penstemon plants were planted at Bessey and McKelvie however no monitoring of survival from previous plantings was completed.
		Fall River RD	Annually	No formal monitoring completed
		Wall RD	Annually	No formal monitoring completed
		Ft. Pierre NG	Annually	No formal monitoring completed
Legal: 36 CFR 219.12 (k)	Implementation Monitoring: Have site-specific decisions been made to implement the Land & Resource Management Plan direction?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	Monitoring indicates that all current site-specific decisions implement the LRMP direction.
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Annually	Monitoring indicates that all current site-specific decisions implement the LRMP direction.
		Fall River RD	Annually	Monitoring indicates that all current site-specific decisions implement the LRMP direction.
		Wall RD	Annually	Monitoring indicates that all current site-specific decisions implement the LRMP direction.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Annually	Monitoring indicates that all current site-specific decisions implement the LRMP direction.

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004
Legal: 36 CFR 219.12 (k)1 & 3	Outputs: Are the projected annual outputs and services being met annually and at anticipated costs?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	See annual MAR report
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Annually	See annual MAR report
		Fall River RD	Annually	See annual MAR report
		Wall RD	Annually	See annual MAR report
		Ft. Pierre NG	Annually	See annual MAR report

VALIDATION MONITORING

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004
Endangered Species Act; USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.20 Key Issue; Legal: 36 CFR 219.19(a)(6); 36 CFR 219.20; 36 CFR 219.27(5 and 6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 2, 4, & 6	Suggested Stocking Rates: Are the suggested stocking rate guidelines (Appendix I) providing the desired levels of vegetation structure and habitat for management indicator species and species at risk?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	None at pasture level
		Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed
		Wall RD	Five years	The Wall Ranger District has established a random stratified sampling of vegetation structure across the three geographic areas. This sampling protocol monitors VORs vegetation structure on nearly 30,000 acres annually. Additional data will need to be collected to complete a formal evaluation.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004
36 CFR 219.19 and 219.20	Wildlife: How do residual cover levels measured in the fall relate to nesting cover levels the following spring?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No need – all grassland structure monitoring is occurring in the spring.
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No need – all grassland structure monitoring is occurring in the spring.
		Fall River RD	Five years	No fall to spring monitoring completed.
		Wall RD	Five years	No fall to spring monitoring completed.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No need – all grassland structure monitoring is occurring in the spring
Endangered Species Act; Migratory Bird Treaty Act; 36 CFR 219.19; LRMP Goal 1.b. Objectives 2 & 4	Wildlife: Are oil and gas stipulations effective, inadequate, or excessive in protecting and conserving raptors, prairie grouse, mountain plover, black-footed ferrets, bighorn sheep, and other wildlife species and their habitats?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Currently not applicable.
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	Currently not applicable.
		Fall River RD	Five years	Surveys of existing oil and gas permits indicates stipulations were adequate
		Wall RD	Five years	Currently not applicable.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	Currently not applicable.

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NMF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2004
Legal 36 CFR 219.11 (d); LRMP Goal 1.b	MIS: Are the selected management indicator species and their response to management activities in habitats on local National Forest System lands adequately representing the management effects on other species in the associated response guilds and is the species membership identified for each response guild reasonably accurate and complete?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	The monitoring dataset is currently insufficient to detect long-term population trends in response to management activities on the Pine Ridge Ranger District for the Plains sharp-tailed grouse. The pygmy nuthatch is a new MIS and the dataset is currently insufficient to detect long-term population trends in response to management activities. Monitoring of the black-tailed prairie dog indicates that population trends are in an upward trend (acres) compared to past years data. It is believed that these MIS do adequately represent management effects on other species in the associated response guilds.
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No comprehensive evaluations completed.
		Fall River RD	Five years	No comprehensive evaluations completed.
		Wall RD	Five years	No comprehensive evaluations completed.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	Visual obstruction of grassland that is potential sharp-tailed grouse and prairie chicken nesting habitat is being monitored with a modified Robel pole. Grouse population parameters are being monitoring by counting the number of displaying males and by noting the ratio of young to adults from wings collected from hunters. Prairie colony acres have be measured with a geographic positioning system...The only survey of associated wildlife species being done is the recording of incidental sightings.

Evaluation

A priority for early 2005 will be to establish a Monitoring Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) as outlined in the introduction section of the LRMP Chapter 4. Responsibilities of the IDT will include establishing a work plan and budget to accomplish the monitoring expectations and requirements. The team will also be responsible for managing the collection and storage of data as well as working with cooperators to aid in data collection. A key responsibility will be to work with cooperators to evaluate the data and determine if, and to what degree, the monitoring questions are being answered. Finally, the team will produce and distribute the annual monitoring report.

Since the final administrative review of the appeals to the Revised LRMP was completed in May, 2004, with the results of the Secretary's discretionary review, project level decisions to implement the LRMP are only now being initiated. With the FY 2005 monitoring report, evaluation of the collected data will begin in earnest.