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September 2009

2008 Annual Monitoring Report

Payette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan



2008 Payette NF Monitoring and Evaluation Report

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2008 MONITORING REPORT

PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST
LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

SEPTEMBER 2009

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 THE FOREST AND THE FOREST PLAN

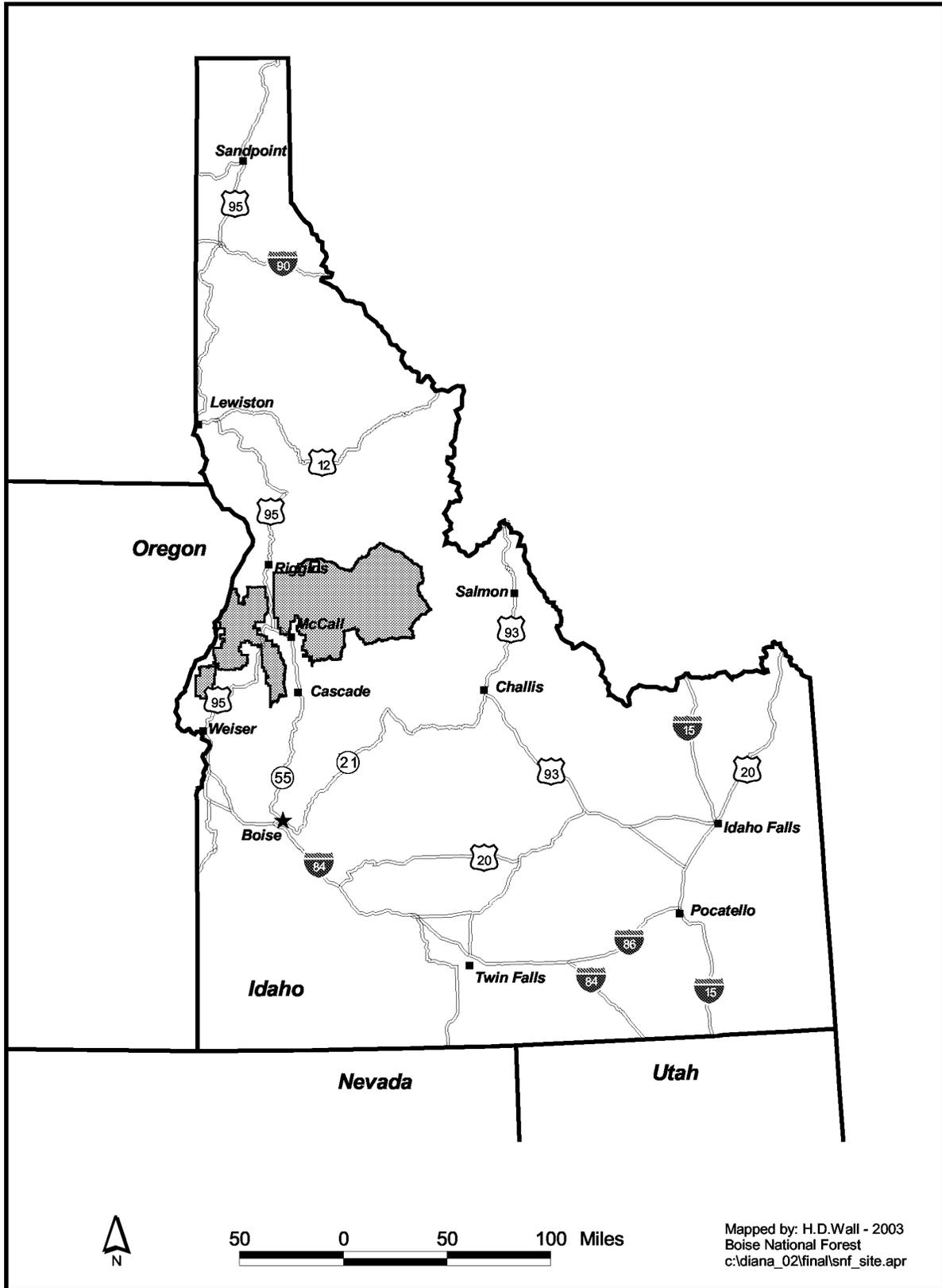
The Payette National Forest (NF) is located in west central Idaho in Adams, Idaho, Valley, and Washington Counties (see Figure 1). The Forest is bordered on the south by the Boise National Forest, on the east by the Salmon-Challis National Forest, on the north by the Nez Perce National Forest, and on the west by the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in Oregon. The Forest Supervisor's Office is located in McCall, Idaho, approximately 100 miles north of Boise. The Forest is comprised of five ranger districts—Council, Weiser, New Meadows, McCall, and Krassel. The Forest is an administrative unit of the Intermountain Region (Region 4) of the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Regional Forester's office is in Ogden, Utah.

In 2003, the Payette NF completed revision of its 1988 Land and Resource Management Plan (hereafter, called the 1988 Forest Plan). The Regional Forester signed the Record of Decision for the revised Forest Plan on July 25, 2003. The revised Plan (hereafter also called the Forest Plan) went into effect September 7, 2003. The Forest Plan defines a strategy for the next 10-15 years and describes desired conditions for Forest ecosystems. It sets goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines that emphasize maintaining and restoring watershed conditions, species viability, terrestrial and aquatic habitats, and healthy, functioning ecosystems. The 2003 Record of Decision was appealed in 2003 and, in March 2005, the Regional Forester was reversed on the decision to implement the direction found in the revised Plan regarding bighorn sheep management. The Payette has been working at responding to the instructions. Additionally, the Forest has also been actively working on revising the Travel Plan.

After implementation of the 1988 Forest Plan, it was evident that forest plans need to be dynamic to account for changes in resource conditions such as large scale wildfire or listing of additional species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), new information, and changed regulation and policies such as the roads analysis policy. To accomplish this, the 2003 Forest Plan has embraced the principles of adaptive management.

After the large wildfires on the Forest in FY2006 and FY2007, the Forest experienced few natural disturbance events during 2008, with only 11,700 acres consumed by wildfire. This Monitoring and Evaluation Report reflects the fifth full year of implementing the revised Forest Plan. It reports Forest monitoring activities and accomplishments for fiscal year 2008, which was from October 2007 through September 2008. In addition to this annual report of monitoring results the three Ecogroup Forests will be completing a Five-Year Monitoring Report summarizing the results of the first five years of monitoring on the 2003 Forest Plan. The expected completion date of this report is spring 2010.

Figure 1. Location of Payette National Forest



1.2 FOREST PLAN MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The goal of Forest Plan monitoring is to determine what is working well and what is not, and to help identify what changes are needed in management direction or monitoring methods. Monitoring and evaluation are key parts of adaptive management. They track how projects are meeting the Forest Plan's desired condition. They provide the information to keep the Forest Plan viable. Monitoring and evaluation tell how Forest Plan decisions have been implemented, how effective the implementation has proven to be in accomplishing desired outcomes, and evaluates the validity of the underlying management strategy expressed in the Forest Plan.

Chapter IV of the Forest Plan, "Implementation", describes the Payette's monitoring and evaluation strategy. It lists the activities, practices, and effects to monitor and the indicators, or measures, to track in Tables IV-1 and IV-2. Most of the elements require annual data gathering and they are designed to evaluate the effects of management over several years. Therefore, results of monitoring for most elements will be reported after evaluation of data gathered over multiple years.

As this is the fifth year of monitoring under the revised Forest Plan, this report focuses on the elements from Tables IV-1 and IV-2 that are to be reported annually. Those elements which are to be reported every fifth year will be documented in a separate report issued in the spring of 2010.

1.3 APPLYING FOREST PLAN MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and evaluation of the Forest Plan have focused on implementation success (that is, achievement of plan objectives), and on decisions made in the 2003 Record of Decision for the Forest Plan. Monitoring elements also include requirements from the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) and NFMA Regulations as well as other pertinent laws and regulations. The 2003 Forest Plan was prepared under the 1982 planning regulations (36 CFR 219), which continue to govern the plan and its implementation.

Monitoring also tracks compliance with the requirements in the Biological Opinions (BO) on the revised Forest Plan by the regulatory agencies (USDI Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and NOAA Fisheries).

Monitoring and evaluation of key results over time will help determine if projects are making satisfactory progress toward the desired conditions in the Plan, or if a "need for change" in the existing strategy has arisen in light of the conditions at that time. As long as the information gained from year to year indicates that Plan implementation strategy is making acceptable progress toward Plan desired conditions, then there is no need for change in that strategy. However, if evaluation concludes that the Forest Plan strategy is not effective, and then the Forest Supervisor determines as to what "needs for change" exist, and whether Plan errata, amendment, or revision would be needed to make the change. If evaluation of monitoring results indicates any monitoring requirements or their methodology are ineffective or outdated, then that conclusion would provide an empirical basis for initiating change.

1.4 REPORT ORGANIZATION

Section 2.1 below shows the five monitoring elements required to be reported annually listed in **Table IV-1** of the Forest Plan, "Forest Plan Evaluation Expectations". Forest Plan Table IV-1 lists elements related to NFMA and other laws and regulations to be reported and the frequency of reporting. Elements not reported each year require the collection of information over multiple years before meaningful evaluation is possible.

Section 2.2 shows the five monitoring elements required to be reported annually in **Table IV-2** of the Forest Plan, “Monitoring Elements.” This Table lists questions and indicators to monitor to determine the success of the Forest Plan management strategy in progressing toward desired conditions.

Section 2.3 describes the project level monitoring completed in 2008. This monitoring collects some of the information needed to address annual monitoring elements in Tables IV-1 and IV-2, as well as the elements that have annual information needs to evaluate and report every 2, 3, or 5 years.

2. 2008 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

2.1 ANNUAL MONITORING ELEMENTS FROM TABLE IV-1

2.1.1 EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE

This section provides a “quantitative estimate of performance comparing outputs and services with those predicted by the forest plan,” as required by Forest Plan Table IV-1, p. IV-5.

As defined in the Forest Plan, objectives are “concise time-specific statements of actions or results designed to help achieve goals”. As such, objectives provide the best projection of outputs and services to be provided through implementation of the Forest Plan. The following narrative lists the relevant objectives and the Forest’s accomplishments for those objectives designed to provide for specific services on an annual basis, and/or projected outputs, resulting from management actions.

2.1.1.1 Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate Species

Objective TEOB01: *Continue to map and update locations of species occurrence and habitat for TEPC species during fine- or site/project scale analyses. Incorporate information into a coordinated GIS database and coordinate with the Idaho Conservation Data Center).*

ESA-listed and R4 Sensitive Fishes

Maps of known distributions of ESA-listed fishes, including management indicator species (MIS), and R4 sensitive fishes on the Forest are updated as new information is obtained, often during pre-project inventories, which typically means that they are updated at least annually. The Fisheries Program has not been coordinating with the Idaho Conservation Data center (ICDC) but does coordinate annually with Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), and did so in the spring of 2008.

ESA-listed Wildlife Species

The detailed discussion for this objective will be part of the Payette National Forest Five Year Monitoring Report which will be published on the Payette website in April 2010.

Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel

Forest-Wide Population Monitoring

In 2008, population monitoring for northern Idaho ground squirrels (NIDGS) was continued by both the Payette National Forest and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG). Monitoring includes extensive surveys by the PNF and IDFG to locate new sites and intensive studies to document presence, numbers, and age classes of NIDGS at existing sites. Extensive survey work is often completed as part of

2008 Payette NF Monitoring and Evaluation Report

project-scale analyses. Intensive monitoring is conducted by IDFG using mark-recapture techniques at 5 sites to provide information on population size, survival, sex ratios and compare population parameters among sites. To view the complete IDF&G report: *Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel Population Monitoring Progress Report for the 2008 Field Season*, visit the Payette National Forest website.

From June 10 to August 15 approximately forty person hours were spent surveying approximately 1,800 acres in Lost Creek and Butter Gulch area. Sites were surveyed that had similar, soil, vegetative characteristics, aspect, elevations (4800' – 6,000'), and slopes consistent with extant and extinct NIDGS populations. NIDGS habitat was searched by walking slowly, looking for NIDGS burrows, NIDGS droppings, looking for clipped vegetation, and glassing NIDGS habitat. GIS maps that depicted soil and vegetative land types that are consistent with extant and extinct NIDGS populations were referenced. Several new NIDGS sites were discovered during these surveys and named Lower Lost Creek, Middle Lost Creek, and Butter Gulch. All were small populations estimated to include 5-20 individuals. Locations were on S, SW, SE, and W aspects, at elevations range from 4,900"- 5,700'. Habitat between populations is fragmented by conifer encroachment and small riparian areas.

Payette NF biologists completed NIDGS surveys in the Lick Creek Lookout area. No new NIDGS populations were discovered.

NIDGS survey work meets the following Conservation Recommendation provided by USFWS in the Biological Opinion for the Payette Forest Plan:

“Continue existing efforts to locate additional natural population of northern Idaho ground squirrels within the Probable Historical Distribution of the species. Document the systematic search methods so all surveys are using similar techniques.”

Vegetation Monitoring

West Zone range specialists established and re-read allotment monitoring sites using the following methods: *NPF = Nested Plot Frequency, UTL = Utilization, SHC = Seed Head Count.*

Sites and methods included: Cold Springs East (*SHC, UTL*), Cold Springs West (*SHC, UTL*), Cottonwood Corrals (*SHC, UTL*), Fawn Creek (*SHC, UTL*), Hoo Hoo Gulch (*SHC, UTL*), Huckleberry (*SHC*), Mill Creek (*SHC, UTL*), Summit Gulch (*NPF, SHC, UTL*), Tree Farm (*SHC, UTL*).

Dr. Eric Yensen developed two study proposals addressing NIDGS diet. One study will focus on diet and the overlap with livestock grazing; the other study will identify important forage plants NIDGS eat throughout the active season. IDFG is conducting the first part of the diet study. The results of the 2008 study; *Idaho Ground Squirrel Diet Study Interim Report Of the 2008 Pilot Field Effort*, can be viewed on the Payette National Forest public website.

Objective TEOB07. *During fine-scale analyses, identify practices or facilities that are adversely affecting TEPC species or their habitats, and prioritize opportunities to mitigate, through avoidance or minimization, adverse effects to TEPC species.*

Accomplishments:

ESA-listed and R4 Sensitive Fishes. - This is routinely accomplished during project-specific analyses that identify and evaluate WCIs appropriate to the project and during development of mitigations designed to sufficiently offset potentially negative project effects that WCIs are expected to either be maintained or moved toward FA conditions. Project-level consultations reinforce this effort by providing the NMFS and the USFWS opportunities to help design these mitigation features.

ESA-listed Wildlife Species. - This objective is one of the key considerations in project-level and other fine-scale analyses. In 2008, Payette NF biologists completed the multi-year effort to update biological assessments of the effects of ongoing Forest actions on listed wildlife species. For some actions, terms and conditions and conservation measures were prescribed in Biological Opinions received from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). These measures, in addition to project design features and mitigation measures, will reduce the impacts of ongoing activities on listed species.

Objective TEOB015: *Maintain or restore vegetative conditions that contribute to the recovery of northern Idaho ground squirrel habitat.*

Accomplishments: To facilitate the recovery of the northern Idaho ground squirrel, work on the following monitoring and habitat enhancement projects was conducted in 2008. The areas treated and treatment methods were consistent with the NIDGS Recovery Plan.

Lost Valley: 40 acres were broadcast burned to rejuvenate and enhance the grass and forb communities and thereby improve forage for NIDGS. The Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) constructed approximately ½ mile of fire line to facilitate the fall burning.

Additional information concerning TEPC and Sensitive species can be found in the following documents:

- ♦ The recently completed report: “*Status of the Flammulated Owl, Great Gray Owl, Northern Goshawk, and Pileated Woodpecker on the Payette national Forest; Report of 2004-2007 Findings*” is available on the Payette National Forest website.
- ♦ Major Biological Evaluations, Assessments, and Opinions completed in 2008 for wildlife project support are available for review on the Payette National Forest website.

2.1.1.2 Air Quality and Smoke Management

Objective ASOB01: *Comply with federal, state, and local requirements relating to the Clean Air Act. This includes, but is not limited to, participating in the respective state’s Smoke Management Programs, and following State Implementation Plans.*

Accomplishment: The Payette NF is a party to the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group. The State of Idaho, Department of Environment Quality (IDEQ), recognizes participation with this organization meets the basic requirements for smoke management within Idaho. The Payette National Forest is a voluntary member of this program. As a way to maintain acceptable air quality within the airshed, the Forest requests approval for prescribed burning one day prior to ignition of all prescribed burning activities. Prescribed burns are ignited only if the requests are approved. During FY08, the forest made this request on 42 occasions and received concurrence to burn on all occasions. None of the 42 prescribed burning activities or the 3 resource benefit fires exceeded NAAQS.

Objective ASOB02: *Within five years of within the timeframe required by the respective (i.e., Idaho and Utah State Implementation Plans, develop emissions data and trend information for fire use to be stored in a centralized database. Use data to document meeting Regional Haze requirements established by the State.*

Accomplishment: Emissions data for prescribed fires is being collected through the Airshed Management System (AMS). The AMS is a web based tool that all Montana/Idaho Airshed Group members use to request burn day recommendations and report actual acres accomplished. This data is archived and available to IDEQ. There is no emission data collection system for wildland fire use. The

IDEQ has not developed a Regional Haze SIP, but anticipated submitting a plan to EPA in 2009. This plan should outline what data requirements, if any, are needed to report emissions from wildland fire for resource benefit. Implementation it expected to take place in 2013.

Objective ASOB03: *Use a variety of management tools, including prescribed fire and Wildland Fire Use (fore Resource Benefit), to help manage vegetation to reduce potential smoke impacts from uncharacteristic wildfire.*

Accomplishment: During FY08 the forest used mechanical means, prescribed burning as mentioned above (ASOB01; Accomplishment), and resource benefit fires to help manage vegetation to reduce potential smoke from uncharacteristic wildfire. The total area treated by these means was 10,354 acres.

Objectives ASOB04: *Provide educational and interpretive exhibits, displays, and programs to increase public awareness and understanding of smoke emissions from fire use and wildfire, the tradeoffs between the two, and the benefits of fuel reduction and smoke management techniques.*

Objectives ASOB05: *When developing and implementing fire use projects, inform the public about potential smoke impacts to health and safety.*

Accomplishment: At the beginning of each prescribed burning season, the Forest shares information with the local media regarding areas identified for fuels treatment activities, and the reasons for the treatment. One of the primary objectives is to reduce the risk and effects of an uncharacteristic wildfire.

Additionally, the Forest cooperates with the Boise NF, the Lower Snake River District of the BLM, and the Southwest Idaho Forest Protective District of Idaho Department of Lands to assemble the Prescribed Fire in Southwest Idaho publication, which is posted at <http://www.rxfire.com/> at the beginning of the summer. This item serves the public by providing all fuels treatment activities planned during the upcoming year, across jurisdictional boundaries, and includes project descriptions with treatment objectives including reducing the risk and effects of uncharacteristic wildfires.

2.1.1.3 Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic Resources

Soil Processes and Productivity

Objective SWOB01: *Continue to maintain and update the landslide prone database to assist in identifying landslides and predicting landslide-prone areas.*

Accomplishments: No updates were made to the landslide prone database in 2008.

Objective SWOB02: *During fine-scale analysis, identify opportunities using fuels management activities to reduce the risk of post-wildfire watershed runoff in subwatersheds with potential threats to life and property.*

Accomplishments: In 2008, Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) projects as well and Post-fire Rehabilitation and Restoration projects were implemented on the Cascade Complex and East Zone Complex Fires. Emergency rehabilitation actions were implemented to reduce the risk of post-wildfire watershed runoff in subwatersheds with potential threats to life and property.

No opportunities were identified to use fuels management activities to reduce the risk of post-wildfire threats to life and property.

Objective SWOB03: *During fine-scale analysis, identify opportunities to restore degraded soil productivity and processes.*

The Forest continues to identify opportunities to restore degraded soil conditions during timber and fuels management project proposals and NEPA analysis. Opportunities consist of the identification of areas of Total Soil Resource Commitment and Detrimental Disturbance where improvements can be made to improve long-term soil productivity to meet Forest Plan standards and guidelines. Additionally, the further creation of additional areas of Total Soil Resource Commitment and Detrimental Disturbance are minimized and/or eliminated through the development of site specific mitigation measures and project design features. Project decisions in fiscal year 2008 that identified opportunities include the Walla Walla Mine EA/DN/FONSI (2/08), the Grays Creek Fire Salvage Project EA/DN/FONSI (4/08), the Brundage Mountain Ski Area Vegetation Management Project (McCall) (9/08) DN/FONSI, and the Brundage Placer Exploration Project (McCall) (9/08) DM.

Hydrology and Watershed Processes

Objective SWOB04: *In cooperation with affected state, tribal, and local governments, holders of water rights, and other interested parties, quantify and seek to obtain federal water rights under the appropriate state and federal laws and Forest Service policy for consumptive and instream water uses needed to carry out National Forest multiple use objectives on National Forest System lands.*

Accomplishments: The Forest continues to actively participate in the Snake River Basin Adjudication to obtain federal water rights under the appropriate state and federal laws and Forest Service policy for consumptive and instream water uses. The Forest continues to apply for new water rights through IDWR when new sources are developed for consumptive uses.

Objective SWOB05: *Cooperate with the State, Tribes, other agencies, and organizations to develop and implement Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and their implementation plans for 303d impaired water bodies influenced by National Forest System management.*

Objective SWOB06: *Work with State, Tribes, other agencies, and organizations to prioritize restoration needs and to bring 303d impaired water bodies into compliance with State water quality standards in a reasonable timeframe.*

Objective SWOB07: *Work within the State's timelines to assist the State in the identification of 303d impaired water bodies, development of TMDLs, and development of TMDL Implementation Plans.*

Objective SWOB08: *Work with the State of Idaho to validate whether their listings of 303d water bodies are correct or whether the water bodies have been restored adequately so that they can be considered for de-listing.*

Accomplishments: SW Objectives 5-8 pertaining to TMDLs and 303(d) impaired water bodies are addressed together. In 2008, the Forest continues to provide representation to the following Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) as requested: 1) SFSR, 2) Cascade Reservoir, 3) Big Payette Lake, 4) Weiser River, and 5) Little Salmon River. TMDLs were in place for the SFSR and Cascade Reservoir. All Forest Service required project implementation for these TMDLs have been completed prior to 2008. The Forest continues to cooperate with DEQ on implementation and effectiveness monitoring. 2008 Monitoring Plans and 2008 Monitoring Results were provided to DEQ during our annual spring coordination meeting.

Objective SWOB09: *Using watershed condition indicators (refer to Appendix B), update the environmental baseline biennially when new information is available through sources such as subbasin assessments, mid- or project-scale analysis, inventories, or Forest-wide monitoring. Use this information to update the Watershed and Aquatic Recovery Strategy.*

Environmental baselines were substantially updated during preparation of watershed biological assessments in 2006 and presented to NMFS and USFWS in 2007 prior to initiation of formal consultation. However, there is presently no process in place to support regular updates of the baseline as are reflected in the watershed BAs. Implementation of the “Framework” process will support this monitoring need:

The “Framework” will include a process and frequency for updating information that ensures broad-scale goals and objectives for species conservation and changes in environmental baselines within the SWIE are kept sufficiently current to inform project development and consultation at the site (project) scale (National Marine Fisheries Service 2003). The Forest presented a draft “Framework” document to the NMFS and USFWS in 2008.

Objective SWOB11: *Coordinate with state and local agencies and tribal governments annually to limit or reduce degrading effects from stocking programs on native and desired non-native fish and aquatic species.*

The Payette NF staff held a coordination meeting with the Nez Perce Tribe in the spring of 2008. They also held a coordination meeting with Idaho Fish and Game in the spring of 2008.

SWB012: *Design and implement management actions so they do not fragment habitat for native and desired non-native fish species. Restore connectivity in currently fragmented habitat where the risk of genetic contamination, predation, or competition from exotic fish species is not a concern.*

See Project Biological Assessments available on the Payette National Forest public website.

SWRA Restoration

Objective SWOB17: *Biennially, maintain and update the Watershed and Aquatic Recovery Strategy (WARS) using the Watershed and Aquatic Recovery Strategy prioritization process, or other appropriate methodologies.*

Accomplishments: The Forest reviewed the WARS and prioritization process. The Forest determined no new updates were required in FY2008.

Objective SWOB18: *Reduce road-related effects on soil productivity, water quality, and aquatic/riparian species and their habitats. Refer to the Watershed and Aquatic Recovery Strategy (WARS) for mid-scale prioritization indicators to assist in fine and site/project scale restoration prioritization planning.*

Accomplishments: 25.1 miles (46 acres) of unauthorized roads were obliterated in FY 2008 using a combination of watershed, road, fish and wildlife, BAER, and post-fire recovery funds. See the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (Section 2.1.4, table 13) and Watershed Aquatic Recovery Strategy (Section 2.2.1.4, table 15) accomplishments for specifics.

2.1.1.4 Wildlife Resources

WIOB03: *Prioritize wildlife habitats to be restored at a mid- or Forest-scale, using information from sources such as species habitat models, and fine-scale analyses. Initiate restoration activities on priority wildlife habitats to move current conditions toward desired conditions.*

In 2008, the Forest focused on gathering and analyzing data in support of the Wildlife Conservation Strategy (WCS). The Boise, Payette, and Sawtooth National Forests are developing the WCS in accordance with their respective Forest Plans. Once completed, the WCS will prioritize for the next 10-15 years the types of activities that should be undertaken to help maintain or restore habitat for wildlife species in greatest need of conservation. The WCS will also identify where those actions are most needed. More about the WCS can be found on the Boise National Forest public website.

Objective WIOB04: *Coordinate animal damage management with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), in compliance with USDA Wildlife Services' most current direction for southern Idaho.*

Accomplishments:

The Forest Wildlife Biologist meets annually with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) Idaho Wildlife Services (WS) to review actions taken over the prior year and discuss the annual operating plan for the current year. As in recent years, USDA-APHIS WS activities in 2008 on the Payette NF focused on wolf control actions due to wolf depredation activities. In addition, WS took action to remove badgers, red foxes, and one coyote in the Lost Valley area to reduce potential impacts on the threatened northern Idaho ground squirrel.

Objective WIOB06: *Enhance public awareness of wildlife habitat management and species conservation through educational and interpretive programs.*

Accomplishment:

The Payette NF hosted an International Migratory Bird Day event with the IDFG and Idaho State Parks at Ponderosa State Park.

Objectives WIOB08 and WIOB10: *Continue to map locations of species occurrence and habitat for MIS and Region 4 Sensitive species during fine- and site/project scale analyses. Incorporate information into a coordinated GIS database, including FAUNA, and coordinate with the Idaho Conservation Data Center (WIOB08). Update appropriate NRIS database modules for sensitive species' occurrence and habitat on a biennial basis to incorporate the latest field data. (WIOB10)*

Accomplishments:

In 2008, numerous wildlife population and habitat surveys were conducted on the Forest. Surveys focused on the following species: pileated woodpeckers, white-headed woodpeckers, northern goshawks, flammulated owls, great gray owls, bald eagle nest sites, northern Idaho ground squirrels, and forest carnivores (i.e., fisher and wolverine). Monitoring for northern Idaho ground squirrel surveys is described above under objective TEOB01. The results of monitoring for the Management Indicator Species (MIS), pileated woodpecker and white-headed woodpecker, are described below under the heading of "Population Monitoring." As a result of these efforts, new locations for MIS and Region 4 sensitive species were documented and mapped. This information was provided to the Idaho Conservation Data Center (CDC) and entered into the PNF wildlife occurrence database.

Forest Carnivores

Snow track surveys and fisher hair snare surveys were conducted by Idaho Department of Fish and Game biologists to monitor forest carnivores (i.e., fisher, wolverine, wolf, lynx, and marten). Survey methods for the hair snares followed the U.S. Rocky Mountain Fisher Survey Protocol developed by Schwartz et al. (2006). Hair samples were submitted to the Forest Service RMRS for genetic testing. The majority of hair samples collected on the Forest in 2008 were identified as marten. Three of the samples were identified as wolverine, adding to our understanding of the distribution of the species on the Forest.

2.1.1.5 Vegetation

Objective VEOB01: *During fine-scale analysis, identify and prioritize areas for regeneration of: a) Aspen in both climax stands and as a seral component on coniferous stands, b) Native herbaceous understory in shrub communities, c) Woody riparian species, d) Western larch, e) Whitebark pine.*

In 2008, there were two Decision Notice/FONSI's signed relating to vegetation management, the Grays Creek Fire Salvage Project and Brundage Vegetation Management Project (found on the Payette National Forest public website under "Publications"). These two decisions encourage the development of seral species – the salvage sale by reforestation, and the ski area treatment by opening up stands and retaining the seral overstory, including whitebark pine.

Objective VEOB02: *When available, use monitoring data to support site/project-scale analysis and to design management actions to achieve vegetation goals and desired conditions over the long term.*

No accomplishments in 2008.

Objective VEOB03: *Utilize emerging technologies and science, and implement an adaptive management process to provide for increasing the effectiveness of vegetation monitoring.*

Objective VEOB05: *Promote partnerships and cooperation with state and federal agencies, tribal governments, and with other interested groups through coordination, cost sharing, and cross-training for assistance with vegetation inventory, classification, monitoring, and other activities as needed.*

Objective VEOB07: *Maintain current mid and fine-scale inventories of vegetation conditions developed during the forest plan revision process to aid in developing vegetation treatment priorities or needs.*

The Payette NF continued with an ongoing contract with the ICDC for riparian vegetation classification, which will facilitate effective vegetation monitoring.

The Payette NF began research and discussion of integrating FIA inventory plots and existing vegetation mapping.

New high resolution photography was flown in summer 2008.

Objective VEOB04: *Enhance public awareness about vegetation diversity through interpretive and education programs that address species, communities, ecosystems, and their processes.*

Worked with Donnelly Elementary School in understanding fire ecology and its relationship to vegetation diversity.

Objective VEOB06: *Determine high-priority areas for vegetation management actions that restore or maintain vegetation desired conditions.*

The Payette NF 5-year action plan outlines the Forests vegetation management program. This action plan is updated periodically and is responsive to a variety of things including changed forested conditions. The two vegetation decisions signed this year would work towards meeting the Forest Plan desired conditions and either restore or maintain vegetation desired conditions. The Grays Creek Fire Salvage Project responded to a changed forest and fuels condition resulting from a wildfire in August 2007. The Brundage Vegetation Management Project improved safety for glade skiers by thinning stands from below (removing smaller trees).

2.1.1.6 Botanical Resources

Objective BTOB01: *Continue to map locations of suitable occupied habitat for Region 4 Sensitive plant species, Forest Watch plants, and globally rare plant communities. Incorporate information into a GIS database and coordinate with the Idaho Conservation Center.*

Accomplishment: Locations of occupied and suitable plant habitats and their populations were mapped either as new locations or as expanded populations during fiscal year 2008. Site and species information was gathered and sent to Idaho CDC in October of 2008.

Objective BTOB02: *During fine-scale analyses in areas containing sensitive species habitat, identify and prioritize opportunities for restoring degraded Sensitive Species habitat.*

Accomplishment: Continue weed control in and around sensitive plant habitat in cooperation with the Forest weed management program. Completed cost-share agreement with Buffalo Berry Farms to propagate and grow native plants and used native plants to restore high elevation vegetation on ski slopes at Brundage Mountain Ski Resort.

Objective BTOB03: *Continue to identify potential Botanical Special Interest Areas and recommend them for establishment. Botanical Special Interest Areas may include areas of unique habitat features, rare plant communities, or areas of high-quality cryptogammic soil crusts with lichens, bryophytes, and fungi.*

Accomplishment: No Special Interest sites recommended in 2008. Began exploring recommending *Saxifrage bryophora* var. *tobiasiae* (Tobias saxifrage) habitat on Granite Mountain as a Botanical Special Interest Area.

Objective BTOB04: *Maintain annually a list of Forest Watch plants that identify species of concern (see Table 1 for a list of species).*

Accomplishment: No Rare Plant Conference with Idaho Fish and Game was held in 2008. The rare plant list remained the same as the 2007 list.

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Table 1. Federal and State Status, Current and Proposed Forest Service Status, and Global Distribution of the Rare Plant Species on the Payette National Forest.

Species Name	Common Name	Global ¹	State ²	Forest Service Status ³		Global Distrib. ⁴
				Regional Sensitive	PNF Plan	
				Current	Proposed	
<i>Allium madidum</i>	swamp onion	G3	S3	S	S	re
<i>Allium tolmiei</i> var. <i>persimile</i>	Tolmie's onion	G4/T3	S3	S	S	le
<i>Allium validum</i>	Tall Swamp Onion	G4	S3	N	W	w
<i>Allotropa virgata</i>	candystick	G4	S3	S	W	d
<i>Arabis sparsiflora</i> var. <i>atrorubens</i>	Sicklepad Rockcress	G5T3	-	-	W	w
<i>Astragalus paysonii</i>	Payson's milkvetch	G3	S3	S	S	re
<i>Astragalus vexilliflexus</i> var. <i>vexilliflexus</i>	bent flowered milkvetch	G4/T? ⁵	S1	N	S	d
<i>Botrychium lanceolatum</i>	Lance-leaved moonwort	G5T4	S3	N	W	cb
<i>Botrychium lineare</i>	Slender moonwort	C-G1	SH	N	W	sd
<i>Botrychium simplex</i>	Least moonwort	G5	S2	N	S	cb
<i>Buxbaumia viridis</i>	green bug moss	G4	S2	N	S	w
<i>Calamagrostis tweedyi</i>	Cascade reedgrass	G3	S2	S	S	re
<i>Camassia cusickii</i>	Cusick camas	G4	S2	S	S	re
<i>Carex aboriginum</i>	Indian Valley Sedge	G1	S1	N	W	le
<i>Carex buxbaumii</i>	Buxbaum's sedge	G5	S3	N	W	w
<i>Ceanothus prostratus</i> ssp. <i>prostratus</i>	Mahala-mat ceanothus	G5/?	S1	N	S	d
<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i> spp. <i>nanus</i>	dwarf grey rabbitbrush	G5/T4	S3	N	W	re
<i>Crepis bakeri</i> ssp. <i>idahoensis</i> .	Idaho hawksbeard	G4/T2	S2	N	S	le
<i>Douglasia idahoensis</i>	Idaho Douglasia	G2	S2	S	W	le
<i>Draba incerta</i>	Yellowstone draba	G5	S2	N	S	re
<i>Eatonella nivea</i>	White eatonella	G4	S3	N	W	d
<i>Epilobium palustre</i>	Swamp Willow Weed	G5	S3	N	W	w
<i>Epipactis gigantea</i>	Giant helleborine orchid	G3	S3	N	S*	sd
<i>Hackelia davisii</i>	Davis' stickseed	G3	S3	N	S	le
<i>Halimolobos perplexa</i> var. <i>perplexa</i>	Puzzling halimolobos	G4/T3	S3	S	S	le
<i>Haplopappus radiatus</i>	Snake River golden weed	G3	S3	S	S	re
<i>Helodium blandowii</i>	Blandow's helodium	G5	S2	N	S	cb
<i>Hierochloe odorata</i>	Sweetgrass	G4/G5	N	N	W	w
<i>Howellia aquatilis</i>	Water howellia	T-G2	S1	N	W	sd
<i>Leptodactylon pungens</i> ssp. <i>hazeliae</i>	Hazel's prickly phlox	G5/T2	S2	S	S	le
<i>Lewisia kelloggii</i>	Kellogg's bitterroot	G4	S2	N	S	re
<i>Lobaria scrobiculata</i>	Pored lungwort	G3/G4	S1	N	S	cb
<i>Mimulus clivicola</i>	Bank Monkeyflower	G4	S3	S	W	re
<i>Mirabilis macfarlanei</i>	MacFarlane's four-o'clock	T-G2	S2	N	W	Le
<i>Peraphyllum ramosissimum</i>	Squaw apple	G4	S2	N	S	Sd
<i>Pilophorus acicularis</i>	Nail lichen	G4	S2	N	S	Sd
<i>Polystichum kruckebergii</i>	Kruckeberg's Sword-fern	G4	S2	N	S	re

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Species Name	Common Name	Global ¹	State ²	Forest Service Status ³		Global Distrib. ⁴
				Regional Sensitive	PNF Plan	
<i>Ribes wolfii</i>	Wolf's current	G4	S2	N	S	D
<i>Rubus bartonianus</i>	Bartonberry	G2	S2	S	S	Le
<i>Salix glauca</i>	gray willow	G5	S2	N	S	D
<i>Sanicula graveolens</i>	Sierra sanicle	G4	S1	N	S	W
<i>Saxifraga bryophora</i> var. <i>tobiasiae</i>	Tobias' saxifrage	G5T2	S2	S	S	Le
<i>Schistostega pennata</i>	Luminous moss	G4	S1	N	W	cb
<i>Sedum borschii</i>	Borch's stonecrop	G4 ?	S2	N	S	Sd
<i>Silene spaldingii</i>	Spalding's silene	T-G2	S1	N	W	re
<i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	Ute Ladies'-tresses	T-G2	S1	N	W	re
<i>Triantha occidentalis</i> ssp. <i>brevistyla</i>	Short-style tofieldia	G5/T4	S1	N	S	D

¹Global - Global ranking as assigned by Natural Heritage Program and Idaho Native Plant Society. **T** = Threatened, **C** = Candidate.

²State - Idaho State ranking, **SH** = State Historical Occurrence, **S1** = State critically imperiled, **S2** = State Imperiled, **S3** = State rare or uncommon not imperiled.

³Forest Service Status - **S** = Region 4 Sensitive, **W** = Forest Watch plants, **N** = No current status. ⁴Global Distribution - **d** = disjunct, **le** = local endemic (< 100 square miles), **re** = regional endemic (distribution 100-10,000), **sd** = sparsely distributed (isolated populations), **p** = peripheral, **w** = widespread, **cb** = circumboreal, circumpolar.

Objective BTOB05: *Provide for the gathering of plants for Native American Indian traditional or cultural uses, as stipulated in states, treaties, and agreement with the U.S. Government.*

Accomplishment : Heritage Program and botany program work together to help maintain cultural plants on the Forest.

Objective BTOB06 *Identify and prioritize habitat types that support economically and culturally important plant species to provide for gathering of plants associated with Native American Indian traditional or cultural uses Conservation Center.*

Accomplishment: No accomplishments this year.

Objective BTOB07 *Encourage participation from Forest employees, the public and other agencies in a collaborative Celebrating Wildflowers program to promote the importance of conservation and management of native plants and plant habitats.*

Accomplishment: Provided training on rare plants and native plants on the Payette to employees and the public. Taught native plant identification to McCall-Donnelly science class and the Payette Range summer seasonal work force.

Objective BTOB08: *During fine and site/project scale analyses, identify and map areas of non-native plant invasions with rare plant habitat.*

Accomplishment: Botanical surveys or monitoring occurred on over 10 sites in 2008. Invasive plants are noted on all surveys and reported to Forest Weed Management for treatment.

Objective BTOB09: *Coordinate with research efforts for Sensitive plant species to determine habitat dynamics, seral conditions, pollination ecology, phenology, distribution, and susceptibility to impacts. Coordinate efforts and information with the Idaho Conservation Data Center, universities, Forest Service Research Stations, etc.*

Accomplishment: Locations of occupied and suitable plant habitats and their populations were mapped either as new locations or as expanded populations during fiscal year 2008. Site and species information was gathered and sent to Idaho CDC.

Objective BTOB010: *Identify areas of high potential for cryptogamic crust restoration and/or maintenance.*

Accomplishment: None identified.

Objective BTOB011: *Enhance public awareness of the fundamental importance of plants to society through educational programs about native plants, plant conservation, biological diversity, ecological processes, and noxious weeds.*

Accomplishment: Worked with McCall-Donnelly High School identifying noxious weeds in the area.

Objective BTOB012: *As a means of proactive management, seek funding for, prioritize preparation of, and prepare Conservation Agreements and Strategies to maintain or restore habitats of Sensitive plant species.*

Accomplishment: Developed a cost-share agreement with Mancuso Botanical Services to help update the Conservation Strategy for *Saxifraga bryophora* var. *tobiasiae* (Tobias saxifrage) in 2008.

Objective BTOB013: *Cooperate with researchers, ecologists, geneticists and other interested parties to develop seed zones or breeding zones for native plants.*

Accomplishment: Worked with Kansas State Researcher studying *Phlox*, ARS Poisonous Plant Research Lab, and Red Butte Garden processing collection permits and helping with collection sites as needed.

Objective BTOB014: *Collect seeds of native plants to be used in rehabilitation and restoration activities. Collect seed in accordance with seed zones or breeding zones. Develop long-term storage facilities for collected seeds such as the seed bank in Lucky Peak*

Accomplishment: Contracted with *Buffalo Berry*, a local nursery, to collect and grow native plants for high elevation restoration projects and for burned areas following wild fires.

2.1.1.7 Non-native Plants

Objective NPOB01: *Maintain, and use current field data to update, the Forest-wide database and map library of current status of noxious weed infestations, treatment activities, and locations of newly established infestations.*

Tabular and spatial data was collected on 169 invasive weed sites and uploaded information into the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) corporate database in 2008.

Determine if Forest management strategies and Forest plan standards and guidelines are effective in controlling, containing, or eradicating established non-native invasive plant populations.

During fiscal year 2008, 2,633 acres of non-native invasive plant populations were treated with an average of 82% control of noxious weeds within the treated acres. Based upon the control rate, Forest plan standards and guidelines are effective.

Objective NPOB02: *Designate Coordinated Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) on Payette National Forest System lands.*

The Payette NF is a partner of, and participates in four CWMAs (Upper Payette, Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, Adams, and Lower Weiser River) across the Forest.

Determine if the Forest is managing non-native invasive plant species in a cooperative manner with other agencies, land managers, and land owners associated with NFS lands.

1.7 million acres of the Forest are included in Cooperative Weed management Areas. Cooperators participating in the four CWMAs include Federal, State, and local government agency personnel, and a plethora of private individuals and groups.

Objective NPOB03: *Develop strategic noxious weed management plans for Coordinated Weed Management Areas. Cooperate on a regular basis with federal agencies, tribal governments, the State of Idaho, county weed organizations, state and local highway departments, and private individuals in establishing coordinated Weed Management Area strategic priorities, and locating and treating noxious weed species.*

All four CWMAs, of which the Payette NF is a partner, have developed strategic plans to guide management of noxious weeds. Priorities for management of noxious weeds, including inventory, mapping, and treatment are included in the strategic plans.

Objective NPOB04: *Coordinate with the Idaho Department of Transportation and county officials to assist and promote cooperative efforts to reduce introduction and spread of noxious weeds.*

In addition to cooperative work with the CWMAs, the Payette NF participated with city and county personnel to treat weed infestations within the city of McCall and on Highway 55 and 95 corridors.

Objective NPOB05: *Cooperatively work with holders of special use authorizations to identify and manage noxious weed infestations within areas of use to prevent further expansion or reduce existing densities.*

As previously issued special use authorizations expire, noxious weed management requirements are incorporated into the new special use authorizations.

Objective NPOB06: *Emphasize prevention of noxious weed establishment through education and cooperation with recreation user groups such as all-terrain (ATV), motorcycle, and stock user groups.*

Educational noxious weed posters are located at popular trailheads and boat launch areas within the Frank Church River of No Return (FCRONR) Wilderness. Road signs displaying noxious weed-free requirements are positioned on frequently used access roads to the Forest.

Objective NPOB07: *Use Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation or other appropriate procedures to reduce the risk of Noxious weed expansion in wildland fire areas, especially those identified in the Forest-wide database and map library as being highly susceptible to invasion.*

In fiscal year 2008, approximately 93 acres of noxious weed infestations were treated at seven sites within the Grey's Creek wildfire area.

Objective NPOB08: *Develop a Forest Noxious Weed Management Plan in coordination with county, state, and federal agencies, including USFWS and/or NMFS, within 3 years of signing the ROD for Forest Plan revision.*

The Payette NF has not completed a Forest wide programmatic plan for noxious weed management, but instead plans have been developed in conjunction with our CWMA's partners. Cooperation in development of strategic plans with the CWMA partners has covered the majority of the Forest. Consultation with NMFS, USFWS, and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has been completed for all listed species. The Payette NF coordinated with the Nez Perce Tribe on all noxious weed treatments.

2.1.1.8 Fire Management

Objective FMOB04 - *Schedule and complete at least 100,000 acres of fuels management through prescribed fire and mechanical treatments in the next decade to achieve desired vegetation attributes and fuel reduction goals. Focus on wildland/urban interface and areas in Fire Regimes 1, 2, and 3 (non-lethal, mixed1, mixed2) in Condition Classes 2 and 3 (moderate to extreme hazard rating).*

Accomplishment - During fiscal year 2008, the Payette treated 4,462 acres of hazardous fuels using prescribed burning and mechanical treatments. It also treated 5,892 acres using naturally occurring fire (Resource Benefit). Of the 10,354 acres total treated, the treatment mix was 2 percent WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) and 98 percent Non-WUI. Table 3 shows the types of treatment acres. Although current direction is to provide a 50/50 mix of WUI/Non-WUI, it is nationally and regionally recognized that not all Forests have this land distribution. Therefore, Forests such as the Payette are expected to produce more of the Non-WUI acres to help balance WUI acres elsewhere. When going beyond the WUI, direction is to place a priority on those areas of the Forest within fire regimes 1, 2, and 3 (frequent fire regimes) that are also classified as condition classes 2 and 3 (those most departed from historic conditions). Much of the work that the Payette completed in the Non-WUI portion of the Forest in 2008 did occur in these areas and has helped to move them toward lower condition class ratings.

Table 2. Hazardous Fuels Treated, Fiscal Year 2008

FY 2008	WUI Treatments	WUI Acres	Non-WUI Treatments	Non-WUI Acres	Total Treatments	Total Acres
Mechanical	1	40	3	1800	4	1840
Prescribed Fire	16	179	23	2443	39	2622
Subtotal	17	219	26	4243	43	4462
Resource Benefit*	0	0	3	5892	1	5892
Total	17	219	27	10135	44	10354

** Resource Benefit acres are not considered part of the forest target, but do reflect an ecological change on the landscape including condition class change resulting from managed fire activities.*

2.1.1.9 Timberland Resources

Objective TROB01 (Timber): *Provide timber harvest, and related reforestation and timber stand improvement activities, to contribute toward the attainment of desired vegetation conditions. Annually, during the next 10 to 15 years:*

- (a) Harvest timber, other than by salvage, on an average of approximately 5,500 acres,*
- (b) Reforest an average of approximately 1,500 acres, and*
- (c) Complete timber stand improvement activities on an average of approximately 3,000 acres.*

Table 3 shows the acres harvested, reforested, and thinned. Of the acres harvested, most accomplished timber salvage goals in the Gray’s Creek Fire Salvage Project. 28.98 MMBF of salvage timber was offered with the Gray’s Creek Fire Salvage Project. The reforestation acres shown in the table include 958 acres of planting, and includes 386 acres of site preparation for planting. The Forest’s main focus for FY2008 was preparing and implementing fire salvage in the Gray’s Creek Wildfire Project Area.

Table 3. Timber Area Treated, Fiscal Year 2008.

	Total Timber Harvested (Acres)	Total Reforested (Acres)	Total Timber Stand Improvement (Acres)
Completed	3,823	958	0

Objective TROB02: *Make available an estimated 325 million board feet of timber for the decade, which will contribute to Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ)*

In fiscal year 2008, the Payette NF offered approximately 30.73 million (MMBF) of timber and sold 30.73 MMBF. The volume offered was a 94% of the yearly ASQ and the actual amount of volume sold was 94% of the yearly ASQ estimated for Objective TROB02.

Objective TROB03: *Utilize wood products (e.g., fuelwood, posts, poles, houselogs, etc.) generated from vegetation treatment activities, on both suited and not suited timberlands, to produce an estimated 80 million board feet of volume for the decade. This volume, when combined with ASQ, is the Total Sale Program Quantity (TSPQ). The TSPQ for the first decade is estimated to be 405 million board feet.*

The Payette sold approximately 2.20 million board feet (MMBF) of wood products (fuelwood, posts and poles, houselogs, etc.). When combined with the 30.73 MMBF of timber sold from TROB02, the Payette NF contributed a total of 32.93 MMBF to the TSPQ. The TPSQ accomplished for fiscal year 2008 is 81% of the yearly TPSQ estimated for Objective TROB03.

2.1.1.10 Rangeland Resources

Goal RAG001: *Provide livestock forage within existing open allotments, in a manner that is consistent with other resource management direction and uses.*

Forest Plan goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines are not affecting the number of head months associated with term grazing permits. During fiscal year 2008, 42,015 cattle head months, 32,905 sheep (ewe/lamb) head months, 19,650 dry ewe head months, and 258 horse head months were authorized to graze on the Payette NF:

Objective RAOB02: *Coordinate livestock grazing with timber harvest and forest regeneration activities to capitalize on management opportunities, while minimizing activity conflicts to help meet Forest Plan Vegetation and Rangeland Resource goals.*

Rangeland Management Specialists provided input and recommendations into all vegetation planning efforts to minimize future conflicts between the two resource areas. The planning process is used to identify opportunities to provide suggested management improvements, including noxious weed treatments and improvements to facilitate livestock distribution.

Objective RAOB03: *During fine-scale analyses where rangeland facilities are identified as a potential concern or problem contributing to degrading resource conditions within the analysis area, identify rangeland facilities that are degrading resource conditions and prioritize opportunities to mitigate their effects or to initiate restoration of resource conditions.*

The predominant rangeland resource issue identified during fine-scale analysis is the occurrence of non-native plants within the planning area. Mitigation measures and management requirements are incorporated into the environmental documentation to highlight these areas for management action.

In fiscal year 2008, Rangeland Management Specialists worked with Special Uses and a permittee to move a range facility from the range permit to a special use permit. During the process, an outhouse was identified to be moved away from water.

2.1.1.11 Lands and Special Uses

Objective LSOB01: *Use purchase, donation, conveyance, exchange, rights-of-way acquisition, transfer, interchange, and boundary adjustment to accomplish Forest Plan goals.*

Right-of-Way Acquisition

In fiscal year 2008, the Forest acquired four temporary road rights-of-way for timber harvesting projects and 38 permanent roads totaling 7.92 miles through land purchase at Thunder Mountain..

Conveyance

The Payette had no conveyance project completions in FY 08.

Purchase

Phase 4 (final phase) of the Thunder Mountain Acquisition was closed on September 11, 2008. The land in this acquisition included nine Patented Mineral Surveys for, approximately 370.572 acres. This acquisition was completed with Land and Water Conservation Funds.

Objective LSOB02: *Prepare and update, as needed, site-specific plans to guide rights-of-way acquisition, and ownership boundary marking, posting, and management.*

The Forest has a prepared right-of-way acquisition plan on file in the Forest Supervisor's Office. The plan is updated periodically to reflect easements acquired. The Forest Land Survey Unit, operating as part of the Southwest Idaho Zone of Boundary and Title Management, conducts annual boundary marking and posting updates as scheduled in a 20-year management plan and upon special request by Ranger Districts. Prior year accomplishments are cataloged and made available to the Forest Staff for resource planning and implementation.

Objective LSOB03: *Prepare and maintain a landownership adjustment map based on Forest Plan goals and objectives.*

The Southwest Idaho Lands Zone is responsible for the landownership adjustment program on the Payette NF. The Zone prepares landownership adjustment plans on an annual basis, based on Forest Plan goals and objectives.

Objective LSOB04: *Acquire and grant rights-of-way that meet resource access needs of the Forest Service, public users, and cost-share cooperators.*

In fiscal year 2008, the Payette NF acquired four temporary road easements from landowners in the Middle Fork Weiser River area to access salvage timber from the Grays Creek Fire. The Payette NF granted three temporary permits to landowners hauling commercial timber on Forest Roads. In addition, the Forest terminated two easements for Road Numbers 50190 and 50191, roads no longer needed for public traffic due to landownership adjustments.

Objective LSOB05: *Reduce or eliminate the current backlog of reciprocal Rights-of-Way and easement cases.*

With the accomplishments listed in the previous objective, 2 backlogged cases were eliminated from the Forest's Right-of-Way Plan.

Objective LSOB06: *Protect and maintain boundary lines between National Forest System lands and other ownerships that have been surveyed, posted, and marked to keep them visible, to protect the investment, and to deter encroachment.*

In fiscal year 2008, the Southwest Idaho Boundary and Title Management Zone maintained 53.4 miles of previously marked boundary line and surveyed and posted 2.6 miles of new boundary line.

Objective LSOB07: *Maintain land status records.*

Land status records are updated both on-Forest in the Status Atlas records in the Forest Supervisor's Office and in the Regional Office where official records are posted and entered in a national records database.

Objective LSOB08: *Identify and resolve trespass uses, title claims, and encroachment occurring on National Forest System lands, and act to reduce the likelihood of future trespass.*

In fiscal year 2008, two encroachment cases identified through boundary management projects were resolved with issuance of special use permits.

2.1.1.12 Facilities and Roads

Objective FROB04: *During fine scale analyses, identify opportunities to reduce road related degrading effects to help achieve other resource objectives.*

Fine scale analysis identifying opportunities to reduce road-related degrading effects was addressed by the Payette NF in two project level environmental analysis documents in fiscal year 2008.

Council District completed the Grays Creek Fire Salvage Project Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact (USDA Forest Service April 2008), which covered

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16.1 square miles and identified 3.2 miles of temporary road construction, 6.1 miles of road reconstruction and maintenance and 2.3 miles of unauthorized road decommissioning.

McCall District completed the Brundage Vegetation Management Project Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact (USDA Forest Service September 2008), which covered 5.2 square miles and identified 0.5 miles of temporary road construction, and 5 miles of road reconstruction and maintenance.

Objective FROB02: *Cooperate with federal, state, and county agencies, tribal governments, and cost share partners to achieve consistency in road design, operation, and maintenance needed to attain resource goals; and:*

Objective FROB05: *Coordinate transportation systems, management, and decommissioning with other federal, state, and county agencies, tribal governments, permittees, contractors, cost-share cooperators, and the public to develop a shared transportation system serving the needs of all parties to the extent possible.*

In fiscal year 2008, the Payette NF:

- Conducted annual Cost Share road maintenance meetings with its cooperator, the State of Idaho, and with Potlatch Corporation, the holder of cost share easements owned by former cooperator Boise Cascade Corporation. The purpose of the meetings was to make efficient use of resources and funds to manage our shared road network and to account for each party's traffic and non-traffic generated use and maintenance obligations. Final road maintenance costs for each party were reconciled at the end of 2008 and are on file in the Cost Share Maintenance Agreement records located in the Forest Supervisors Office.
- Received a lump sum payment from Potlatch Corporation for accumulated deferred road maintenance charges on Cost Share Roads;
- Terminated two road easements no longer needed by the United States;
- Issued three Road Use Permits for commercial use of National Forest System (NFS) roads, collecting lump sum payments for cost recovery and deferred road maintenance.
- Executed multiple Project Supplements to Forest Road Agreements with Valley, Adams, and Idaho Counties for road improvement work..

Objective FROB03: *Identify safety hazards on Forest classified roads, establish improvement priorities, correct or mitigate the hazard.*

Between 2001 and 2005, 100 percent of the system passenger car roads (maintenance levels 3, 4, and 5) were surveyed to determine maintenance needs. Identified maintenance needs were placed into the deferred maintenance backlog in INFRA until such time as they are addressed through future programs of work. Five road condition surveys for a total of 25.1 miles were completed in fiscal year 2008. These roads were selected by the Forest Service's Washington Office using a random sample method.

Site-specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) projects in areas with roads routinely identify safety hazards and remedy them where possible.

The Payette NF classified road system includes 58 bridges and 3 major culverts (span > 20 ft.), most on a 2-year inspection cycle. Forty-six bridges were inspected in FY 2008 to determine if they support design uses and legal highway limits. Road miles and bridges surveyed are shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Roads and Bridges Surveyed, Fiscal Year 2008.

Type of Asset	Total Assets	Surveyed FY07	% Surveyed FY07
Operational ML 3,4,5 Roads (miles)	571	14.4	2.5
Operational ML 2 Roads (miles)	1564	10.3	0.7
Operational ML 1 Roads (miles)	832	0.4	0.1
Road Bridges and Major Culverts	61	46	75.4

Source: INFRA Report

In fiscal year 2008, the Payette NF road and watershed crews maintained 267.5 miles of system road, decommissioned 4.0 miles of system road, and obliterated 21.3 miles of unauthorized road. Identified resource and safety hazards were corrected during this maintenance. Table 5 lists those road miles maintained, as reported in the 2008 Payette NF Annual Roads Accomplishment Report (ARAR).

Table 5. Roads Receiving Force Account Maintenance, Fiscal Year 2008.

Operational Maintenance Level	Total System Miles (End of FY)	Roads Receiving Maintenance (Miles)	Remarks
1	831.6	0	Miles reported are for road closures
2	1564.3	91.8	
3	530.5	144.2	
4	36.2	31.5	
5	4.0	0	
Total Miles	2,966.6	267.5	
Decommissioned (System)		4.0	
Obliterated (Unauthorized)		21.3	

Source: FY 2007 Payette NF ARAR

In addition to the road miles maintained by the Payette NF, 8.6 miles of road were reconstructed, and 28.0 miles of road were maintained during fiscal 2008 by Payette NF timber sale purchasers. These miles are from timber sales awarded in prior fiscal years.

Also, 13 miles of Forest road were maintained by Cost Share Cooperator Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and 34.5 miles by Potlatch Corporation during their 2008 timber sale programs, for a total of 47.5 miles maintained by cost share easement holders. IDL re-surfaced an additional 0.47 mile of cost share road numbers 50048 and 50055.

Identified resource and safety hazards were corrected during the maintenance. Table 6 lists those system road miles constructed and maintained during timber sales as reported in the fiscal year 2008 Payette NF ARAR.

Table 6. Road Miles Maintained by Purchasers and Cooperators, Fiscal Year 2008.

Maintained By	Operational Maintenance Level	Construction	Reconstruction	Maintenance
PNF Timber Sale Purchaser	1,2	0	8.6	12.0
PNF Timber Sale Purchaser	3	0	0	16.0
Idaho Department of Lands	2,3	0.9	0.2	13.0
Potlatch Corporation	2,3	0	0.2	34.5
Total Miles		0.9	9.0	75.5

Source: FY 2008 Payette NF ARAR.

Two timber sales with specified road work were awarded in fiscal year 2008. The 8.7 miles of road maintenance and reconstruction from these two sales and additional road maintenance from prior year sales is expected to occur in future fiscal years. Identified resource and safety hazards will be corrected during this maintenance.

Table 7. Road Miles to be Maintained by Purchasers for 2008 Awarded Sales.

Operational Maintenance Level	Construction	Reconstruction	Maintenance
1	0	0	0
2	0	0.7	3.6
3	0	0	4.4
Total Miles	0	0.7	8.0

Source: FY 2008 FS Engineering Road Packages.

Objective FROB06: *Identify roads and facilities that are not needed for land and resource management, and evaluate for disposal or decommissioning.*

For roads refer to Objective FROB04 and for facilities refer to Objective FROB09.

Objective FROB09: *Develop a Forest Facilities Master Plan depicting facility location, unit standards, existing and proposed buildings, and related improvements.*

The Payette NF completed a Facility Master Plan in 2004. The Facility Master Plan evaluated existing administrative facilities and identified unneeded facilities. Unneeded facilities identified will be evaluated for disposal or decommissioning. Facility Master Plan Amendment #1 was added in July 2005 and is still in effect. During fiscal year 2008, no additional buildings were identified to be decommissioned.

Objective FROB11: *In the Forest’s annual program of work, prioritize and schedule improvements to existing culverts, bridges, and other stream crossings to accommodate fish passage, 100-year flood flow, and bedload and debris transport. Include accomplishments in the biennial update of the Watershed and Aquatic Recovery Strategy (WARS) database.*

The following improvements to stream crossings were made to restore fish passage and/or accommodate 100-year flow:

Council District – Open bottom box culvert on North Fork Grays Creek.

New Meadows District – Open bottom arch culvert on Cold Springs Creek.

McCall District - Open bottom arch culvert on North Fork Long Gulch; Round culvert w/ stream simulation on creek in Chinook Campground; Round culvert w/ stream simulation on Hoodoo Creek; and Round culvert w/ stream simulation on Arlise Gulch.

Krassel District - Open bottom box culvert on Indian Creek; Round culvert on Buckhorn Bar Creek; Open bottom arch culvert on Phoebe Creek; Open bottom arch culvert on Deadman Creek; Open bottom arch culvert on Reegen Creek; Open bottom arch culvert on Goat Creek; and Round culvert on Sisters Creek.

Under the terms of a Road Right-of-Way Construction and Use Agreement, the Idaho Department of Lands installed four open bottom arch culverts to restore fish passage and accommodate 100-year flow. Two culverts are located on Pole Creek on the Council Ranger District, and two are located in Bear Basin on the McCall Ranger District. In addition, IDL improved erosion conditions by installing 10 armored rolling dips and applying pit run aggregate surfacing on a section of Road No. 50451 north of Bear Basin on the McCall Ranger District.

2.1.1.13 Recreation Resources

Objective REOB01: *During fine-scale analyses in areas where recreation facilities are identified as a potential concern or problem contributing to degradation of water quality, aquatic species or occupied sensitive or Watch plan habitat, evaluate and document the location of the facilities causing degradation and prioritize opportunities to mitigate effects.*

Potential concerns for Threatened and Endangered Chinook Salmon habitat were identified within the perimeter of the Chinook Campground in 2002. At that time the Forest began to develop plans to tackle these concerns. In 2008, the Intermountain Regional Office completed the design for the new Chinook campground, which included recommendations from National Marine Fisheries Service, and Forest Fisheries Staff to remove and rehabilitate day use sites adjacent to the Secesh River and move back other overnight use sites to improve bank conditions and lessen erosion in and around the campground perimeter. The plan also included a new 15 unit campground placed in a location far from the bank area that would accommodate large trailers and horse facilities. Fires in July 2008 spread through the new planned upper campground area burning many of the trees. Because of that, the new upper 15 unit campground plan was abandoned and the Forest planned to reconstruct and improve the existing sites only in FY 2009 per the design plans for that portion of the campground, which would include the improvements to Threatened and Endangered species habitat along the banks of the Secesh River.

Objective REOB07: *Continue efforts to inventory, survey, and map dispersed recreation sites to provide resource data for disperses site management.*

The New Meadows Ranger District completed a corridor plan to identify and designate dispersed campsites along Smokey Boulder Road, and applied for and received a Resource Advisory committee (RAC) grant in the amount of \$42,000. to fund a new CXT installation, barrier rocks, and hardened sites. The grant also funds closing some sites with existing resource damage. The project is scheduled for accomplishment in 2009.

Objective REOB08: *Inform the public in a timely manner about management actions, affecting their recreation opportunities at appropriate location, including roads, trails, and at developed sites.*

The district recreation personnel posted proposed Developed Campground fee increase signs at all fee campgrounds on the forest in 2008 to solicit comments. Proposed fee hikes were also published in local newspapers.

The Forest continued to work on travel planning across the Forest, informing the public about alternatives via publications, web page information, and newspaper articles. A Record of Decision was published in January 2008 for the Weiser Ranger District, and in October 2008 on the McCall and Krassel Ranger Districts that designated open motorized roads and trails on those districts in accordance with the 2005 Final Rule for Travel Management.

The Forest added Hazard Campground to the National Reservation System, allowing visitors to make reservations at the campground prior to arrival. This improved visitor satisfaction in being able to reserve a campsite ahead of time at this popular destination campground.

Objective REOB11: *Monitor recreation resource conditions, visitor use levels, types of uses, and visitor expectations to guide recreation management actions.*

Visitor Use figures were tracked in all Payette NF developed fee campgrounds to gauge occupancy rates and season of use. During the entire 2008 season the National Visitor Use Survey took place which gathered and recorded Forest-wide visitor use in Wilderness, Developed and dispersed recreation areas and along roads and trails. Results will be available in 2010.

Objective REOB12: *Collaborate with other government agencies, recreation partners, volunteer organizations, and the recreation and tourism industry in recreation planning and delivery efforts to provide support to local economics, promote management efficiency and improve recreation opportunities and experiences available to the public.*

The PNF works with multiple partners from state, federal and private agencies to improve recreation opportunities year round on the Forest. The Forest works with Brundage Mountain Resort and Payette Lakes Ski Club to provide Alpine and Nordic Skiing opportunities.

The McCall Ranger District trails program has worked with the local Central Idaho Mountain Biking Association to build trails for hiking and mountain biking in the Bear Basin Area. To help accomplish recreation goals the Forest applies for annual grants from the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) and the Southern Idaho RAC. The Forest received the following grants in 2008 for recreation related projects:

- Bear Basin Mountain Bike Trail Grants (IDPR)
- Smokey Boulder Dispersed Recreation Site Improvement Project (RAC)
- Avalanche Center Funding (IDPR)
- Mini Excavator for trail building (IDPR)
- Squaw Meadows Victor Creek Trailhead improvements (IDPR)
- Tool Cache Trail Rehabilitation (IDPR)
- Sheep Creek Trail Construction (RAC)
- Trail Signing (IDPR)
- Youth Conservation Corps (RAC)

The Forest also continued to rely on the help of many volunteers to serve as Campground Hosts in the most popular campgrounds across the forest. These volunteers delivered services such as cleaning and supplying paper in the restrooms, cleaning fire rings, answering questions and giving out directions to visitors.

Objective REOB14: *Continue to improve accessibility on the Forest in compliance with all federal laws and agency guidelines.*

Accessibility improvements were made at the following campgrounds in 2008:

- Kennally, Jeanette, and Burgdorf Campgrounds – New accessible CXTs, ramps to be completed in 2009.
- Big Flat Campground: New accessible double vault CXT and access ramp, accessible fire rings and hardened camp sites.
- Deadman Campground: New accessible CXT and ramp.

Objective REOB18: *Initiate a process of phased, site-specific travel management planning as soon as practicable. Prioritize planning based on areas where the most significant user conflicts and resource concerns are occurring. Identify and address inconsistent access management of roads, trails, and areas across Forest, Ranger District, and interagency boundaries.*

The Forest continued to work on travel planning across the Forest, informing the public about alternatives via publications, web page information, and newspaper articles. A Record of Decision was published in January 2008 for the Weiser Ranger District, and in October 2008 on the McCall and Krassel Ranger Districts that designated open motorized roads and trails on those districts in accordance with the 2005 Final Rule for Travel Management.

REOB23: *Provide networks of marked and designated snow machine, cross-country ski, and other winter travel routes and trailhead facilities, while meeting other resource goals and objectives.*

Over 200 miles of snowmobile trails are provided for on the Payette NF, facilitated by a cost agreement between Valley County, Payette NF, and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. In 2008, the annual operating plan was reviewed and updated to allow for another year of trail grooming.

The Payette Lake Ski Club, under permit, grooms approximately 10 miles of Nordic Trail in the Bear Basin area.

REOB25: *Provide opportunities for backcountry winter recreation in areas without wintering wildlife conflicts.*

The ongoing Brundage Cat-skiing permit continues to provide for winter back-country recreation without any noted wildlife concerns to date. Snowmobiling continues on hundreds of thousands of acres across the forest.

REOB26: *Support winter trail management through cooperative agreements with other agencies and groups.*

See objective REOB23 on the agreement facilitating groomed snow-mobile trails with IDPR and Valley County, and Nordic groomed trails by Payette Lakes Ski Club.

Objective REOB27: *Conduct avalanche awareness classes and issue snow pack advisories, within budgetary and other constraints, with sufficient frequency to provide the public and employees with information about backcountry conditions.*

The McCall Ranger District manages the Payette Avalanche Center. In 2008, the Payette Avalanche Center was funded to conduct both educational awareness classes and three forecasts per week on avalanche conditions. Forecasts were posted on the Payette NF avalanche web page. Educational

awareness classes were accomplished by both Payette Avalanche Center – Forest Service employees and Friends of the Avalanche Center partners.

2.1.1.14 Heritage Program

Objective HPOB02: *Update and maintain a Cultural Resources Overview for the Forest. Include in the Cultural Resources Overview, as a minimum, the following topics:*

- a) The kinds of sites already known and their relative abundance on the Forest;*
- b) Major prehistoric uses;*
- c) Major ethnographic uses;*
- d) Major historic themes; and*

The gaps in our knowledge about the prehistory and history of the Forest. Maintain associated databases, atlases, and files on the Forest.

The Heritage Program has had a draft of the Payette NF Historic Overview since August 1996. There has not been much new history to add. However, since 1996 there have been newly identified historic properties added to the INFRA data base. The INFRA data base identifies the kinds of historic properties and their relative abundance on the forest. Historic themes are identified for each historic property. The INFRA and hardcopy data base are updated and maintained throughout the year.

Objective HPOB03: *Develop and implement quality standards (e.g., Meaningful Measures) to guide management and measure Heritage Program success in achieving stewardship and public service objectives.*

Annually, the Heritage Program works to meet deferred maintenance targets, as listed in the Forest's database of record. Prehistoric and historic collections are curated and documented in an electronic data base with hardcopy added to each site file. Historic inhumations are monitored and demarcation fences are maintained.

Objective HPOB04: *Develop a pro-active program of cultural resource management consistent with federal guidelines for the implementation of Sections 106 and 110 of the NHPA.*

Section 106 of the NHPA requires that every federal agency "take into account" how each of its undertakings could have an effect upon historic properties. Since 1980 the Payette National Forest has had a full-time Forest Archaeologist/Heritage Program Manager with a pro-active cultural resource management program. Since 1975 the Payette NF has consulted with the Idaho State Historic Preservation approximately 2,260 times with formal Section 106 reports for review and comment. That equals to approximately 68 formal consultations annually for the past 33 years.

Section 110 establishes inventory, nomination, protection, and preservation responsibilities for federally owned historic properties.

- ◆ Inventory of historic properties on the Payette NF began in 1975. There are currently 1,888 identified historic properties.
- ◆ Nomination of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) began in 1989 and currently 19 properties have been nominated and 16 of these properties have been listed on the NRHP.
- ◆ Protection of historic properties involves fire prevention for buildings and structures, cultural resource site protection plans, monitoring of historic properties with condition documentation and law enforcement. Since 1992 the Heritage Program Manager has been actively working with law

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enforcement documenting violations of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act and implementing 36 CFR 261.9(g).

- ◆ There are currently 36 buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places on the Payette NF that are being preserved and used or are in a closed mothballed condition.

Objective HPOB05: Maintain an ongoing inventory to locate and identify historic properties on National Forest System lands.

Inventory of historic properties on the Payette NF began in 1975. Since that time 1,888 historic properties have been identified. Since 1988 heritage staff has identified 49 new historic properties annually for the past 20 years. In 2004 an eight year programmatic agreement (PA) was created between the four forests managing historic properties in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office for doing inventory, monitoring and evaluating previously identified historic properties. Hopefully, by 2012 the Payette Unit will have completed all elements within the PA.

Objective HPOB06: Develop a predictive model to guide the design and completion of cultural resource inventories. Review inventory results annually to validate or refine the predictive model.

The first predictive model was developed in 1986 by Lee Bennett (PY2000-1477). This predictive model was validated at being 90% successful. However, in an effort to refine this predictive model in 2005 the geographic information system (GIS) quantifiable predictive model for locating cultural resources was created. The two models are used together strive for a higher percentage of success. At this time there is no GIS data available that allows us to include elements that will predict the historic activity of mineral extraction. With this, and several other limitations in mind, this GIS predictive model will be used for future site survey and will be modified as additional data is required.

Objective HPOB07: Evaluate cultural resources to determine their eligibility as historic properties for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Between 1975 and 1987 few newly identified historic properties were evaluated using NRHP criteria for determining eligibility. Beginning in 1988 the Heritage Program proactively evaluated each and every newly discovered historic property and thereby no longer adding to the backlog of unevaluated historic properties. Since 1988 those historic properties located outside of the Frank Church-River Of No Return Wilderness (FC-RONRW) have been evaluated. Beginning in 2004 to 2008 an annual effort has been made to evaluate the previously unevaluated historic properties in the FC-RONRW and this effort will continue for the next three years until all historic property site evaluations have been completed.

Objective HPOB08: Nominate historic properties for listing on the National Register of Historic Places when necessary for management purposes. Prepare management plans for each listed property.

Since 1985, 19 historic properties on the Payette NF have been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Sixteen of these historic properties have been listed onto the NRHP. Four listed NRHP properties have formal management plans.

Objective HPOB09: Protect historic properties through stabilization and monitoring efforts. Monitor historic properties that may be adversely affected by management activities.

Since 1988 stabilization of historic properties on the Payette NF has focused upon preserving and using USDA Forest Service administrative buildings. These buildings date in construction between 1911 and 1940. Thirty-two of these buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). These

historic buildings are located at two ranger stations (Council & McCall), six guard stations (Hayes, Chamberlain, Cold Meadows, Krassel, Warren & Lake Creek) and at two forest fire lookouts (Carey Dome & Arctic Point). Stabilization and restoration actions have taken place at Indian Mountain Fire Lookout, a property nominated to the NRHP.

Monitoring of properties listed on the NRHP is performed annually with the exception of Arctic Point Fire Lookout located in the FCRONRW. This remote fire lookout administrative site is monitored on a four year schedule.

Historic properties determined eligible to the NRHP that are associated with ongoing federal actions are monitored annually.

Objective HPOB10: *Curate artifacts and records, and make them available for study by qualified researchers.*

Since 1988 the curation of artifact collections and records has been on-going. In 2008 all of the American Indian artifacts in the Payette's collections are documented into an electronic record keeping and photographic database. Artifact curation guidelines established by the Smithsonian Institution and the Idaho State Historic Society are used.

The photographic collection is cataloged into a hard copy file. All photographs have been placed in acid free containers and placed into metal cabinets in an atmospheric controlled room. Historic maps are cataloged and placed into acid free oversized Mylar envelopes and suspended inside a metal cabinet in an atmospheric controlled room.

Objective HPOB11: *Prioritize and protect the most significant historic properties. Maintain a catalogue of priority heritage assets and endangered sites.*

Priority Heritage Assists (PHA) on the Payette NF include the 16 historic properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These listed properties includes 32 standing buildings, 32 cemeteries and isolated inhumations, all late 19th century Chinese mining sites and occupations associated with the multiple-resource listing for Chinese sites in the Warren Mining District, as well as all known traditional cultural properties of the American Indians. Other PHAs include the curation and on-going cataloging of the historic photographic archives, historic & prehistoric artifact collections, oversized records and maps and paper records.

Objective HPOB12: *Maintain site and project records in a format consistent with corporate databases.*

Since 1975 Forest Archaeologists in Idaho and throughout Region 4 have cooperated with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office in creating a consistent hardcopy project records database that is currently used on the Payette NF. Since the advent of the national corporate databases the Payette's Heritage Program was one of the first in Region 4 to have the majority of heritage properties information encoded into the national INFRA-structure database (I-Web). Site survey transects are documented annually onto the geographic information system maps.

Objective HOPB13: *Increase public awareness, involvement, and appreciation of outstanding heritage accomplishments through the expansion of stewardship programs.*

Currently the Payette's Heritage Program has three participating agreements that include:

- ♦ The Salmon River Chapter of the Idaho Archaeological Society.

- ◆ The Salmon Mountains Chapter of the Forest Fire Lookout Association.
- ◆ The University of Idaho, Taylor Wilderness Research Station.

Objective HOPB14: *Involvement of interested parties during the initial stages of project planning about undertakings that may affect historic properties.*

Public involvement and comment during project planning is a function of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Under 36CFR800.2,

“Interested persons are those organizations and individuals that are concerned with the effects of an undertaking on historic properties. Certain provisions in these regulations require that particular interested persons be invited to become consulting parties under certain circumstances. In addition, whenever the Agency Official, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Council, if participating, agree that active participation of an interested person will advance the objectives of Section 106, they may invite that person to become a consulting party.”

Interested persons reviewing federal actions where historic properties are concerned include the:

- ◆ Idaho State Historic Preservation Office.
- ◆ The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley, Owyhee, Nevada.
- ◆ The Nez Perce Tribe.
- ◆ The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall, Idaho.
- ◆ Salmon Mountains Chapter of the Forest Fire Lookout Association.
- ◆ Salmon River Chapter of the Idaho Archaeological Society

Objective HOPB15: *Expand heritage experiences and opportunities, including interpretive services, heritage tourism, environmental education, and volunteer programs such as Passport in Time to provide positive heritage experiences.*

The Passport in Time, Windows on the Past and selected volunteers annually work with Heritage Program staff. Volunteers usually are involved with some level of archaeological site testing, data recovery, site survey, monitoring of previously identified historic properties or with the curation collections.

Objective HOPB16: *Expand partnerships with individuals, local communities, and academic and private sector institutions to protect cultural resources and involve and educate the public.*

The Payette’s Heritage Program has one three year participating agreement with the University of Idaho’s Taylor Wilderness Research Station. The primary purpose of this participating agreement is to involve University of Idaho student interns and staff in monitoring, conducting site inventory, and photographing and mapping previously identified American Indian historic properties. The secondary purpose of this participating agreement is for the Heritage Program to provide educational information pertaining to the Northern Shoshone (Tukudika) the last indigenous population to occupy central Idaho in 1879. Annual lectures are given at the wilderness research station about the Tukudika from a historical and archaeological perspective. Heritage Program staff has prepared several historical monographs for the students and interested public at the research station.

The Payette’s Heritage Program Manager (In Forest Service Uniform) was featured on a Bill Moyers Public Television Special “BECOMING AMERICAN” The Chinese Experience. This hour long National Public TV program was featured in March 2003. Bill Moyer presented the historic saga of Chinese immigrants and issues of race, cultural identity and assimilation in the American West.

Scholar and author Christopher Corbett visited with the Payette's Heritage Program staff during the summer of 2007. The author visited several 19th Century Chinese historic properties in the Warren Mining District that included the Chinese Cemetery. This is the only Chinese cemetery listed on the National Register of Historic Places in the State of Idaho. Corbett was gathering information about the late 19th Century Chinese in the Warren Mining District in preparation of a book to be published on the subject. Heritage Program staff provided editorial comments to Corbett's draft in 2008.

Objective HOPB17: Strengthen internal linkages with recreation interpretive services, demonstration projects, environmental education, and others to assure integrated efforts and quality products.

Payette's Heritage Program annually produces historic monographs. These historic monographs are referenced and edited for accuracy and are used for the preparation of interpretive signs or interpretive monographs made available to the public on the Payette NF. Heritage Program staff review and edit text to be placed on the signs before signs are manufactured. Currently the Heritage Program has over 150 historical monographs about people, places, things and events that have taken place on the former Idaho National Forest that was later reorganized to become the Payette National Forest on April 1, 1944. These historic monographs range from one page to multiple pages per subject. Subjects are specific to the area of the current Payette NF and include:

- ◆ Administrative sites
- ◆ Aviation
- ◆ Characters (Chinese)
- ◆ Civilian Conservation Corps
- ◆ Fire/Lookouts
- ◆ Fish & Wildlife (Animals)
- ◆ Forest Service History
- ◆ Historical Archaeology
- ◆ Indians
- ◆ Military History
- ◆ Mining
- ◆ Prehistory Archaeology
- ◆ Pioneers
- ◆ Warren, Idaho
- ◆ Wilderness

Twenty-four selected historical monographs are available to the public in the foyer of the Supervisor's Office in McCall, Idaho. All of the historical monographs are indexed and are on file in the Supervisor's Office's Heritage Program. Interested scholars searching for specific historic information have made information requests. Selected historic monographs are available on the Payette National Forest web-site. Also, the Heritage Program sends selected (rare) historical monographs to the local libraries, special collections libraries at the University of Utah, University of Idaho and to the Idaho State Historical Society.

2.1.1.15 Tribal Rights and Interest

Objective TROB01: Meet annually with designated tribal representatives to coordinate tribal uses of National Forest System lands as provided for through existing tribal rights with the U.S. Government.

Three federally recognized American Indian Tribes have expressed interest in land and resource management activities on the Payette National Forest:

- Nez Perce Tribe

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- Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall
- Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley

Each Tribe has their own appropriate communication protocol. The Heritage Program maintains a list of Tribal contacts. This list is updated and circulated to personnel on the Payette NF who have responsibility to communicate with their resources piers and for line officers communicating with Tribal leaders.

Nez Perce Tribe. In 2008 Payette NF staff successfully used the Consultation Form developed in 2007 as a way to make the staff to staff technical consultation process more efficient. The Forest and Tribe also began planning for quarterly meetings. One annual meeting per year to go over projects has not been sufficient for handling the number of projects that require discussion.

- Campground MOU signed in 1998, agreed to meet annually with 8 National Forests, Met in Spring of 2008
- Communication MOU with Payette National Forest signed in 1994, Established consultation process and created Tribal Liaison position with the tribe
- Fish, Water, & Wildlife MOU (renewed in 2008)
- Watershed Restoration MOU (in process)

Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. Formal and informal annual meetings have been taking place with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley since 1998. The Wings & Roots consultation process was established by MOU in March of 2004. In 2008, Payette staff, District Rangers, and the Forest Supervisor continued to participate in monthly or bi-monthly in Wings & Roots facilitated gatherings with representatives of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes to present and seek comments on upcoming project proposals. The Payette NF met with the Tribe 6 times in 2008.

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. In lieu of an MOU there is an interim agreement/protocol that was signed in June 2007 establishing annual consultation between the Payette NF and the Tribe to review projects for the year. The annual meeting took place on April 3, 2008. Technical Staff to Staff consultations have taken place on Big Horn Sheep and Travel Management Planning.

Objective TROB02: *Consider areas and resources important to American Indian tribal cultures when planning management activities or development proposals and resolve adverse effects to those sites.*

Objective TROB03: *Work with designated tribal representatives during project planning to develop protection or mitigation measures for resources important to the tribes.*

On the Payette NF, the South Fork of the Salmon River fisheries is a primary concern for all three Tribes. The Tribes have expressed that they want access to their traditional fishing, gathering, and camping areas. Road work along the South Fork of the Salmon River is coordinated with the Tribes so that it does not interfere with their access during the traditional fishing season.

The Krassel Ranger District began a robust partnership with the Nez Perce Tribe to utilize grant funding from Bonneville Power Association to restore Salmon and aquatic habitat in the South Fork Salmon River area. Known as the Payette Restoration Partnership the Forest and the Tribe are collaborating on road decommissioning, fish surveys, and streamside restoration.

Numerous examples of correspondence from McCall and Krassel Ranger Districts on diverse topics demonstrate cooperation with all three Tribes as part of the NEPA process. These include formal scoping letters as well as staff to staff email messages concerning project specifics.

During the five year Forest Travel Management Planning process Forest staff met several times with all of the Tribes. Prior to Records of Decision being issued, the project team leader met with the Shoshone Bannock Tribes in April 2008 and the Nez Perce Tribe during the same month. The topic was also covered during the Wings & Roots meeting with the Shoshone Paiute Tribes.

The Payette National Forest contributed \$1,500 to the Intertribal Youth Natural Resource Camp and Forest specialists worked closely with the coordinators in shaping camp activities.

All three tribes are Cooperators in the Draft SEIS for Bighorn Sheep which has been on-going since 2005. The combined team meets regularly and consists of forest staff, wildlife managers and experts from the tribes, the states of Oregon and Washington, and wildlife agencies in Idaho. The Forest Supervisor met with the leadership of all three tribes as formal consultation on the DSEIS in 2008. As Cooperators tribal representatives make official comments on the draft, and also advise the Forest Supervisor on technical issues related to Bighorn sheep viability and tribal concerns related to the survival of the species on the PNF.

Objective TROB04: *Coordinate with tribes to identify Traditional Cultural Properties and recommend for establishment Cultural Special Interest Areas. Traditional Cultural Properties and Cultural Special Interest Areas may include areas of important cultural and spiritual use, reservoirs of cultural plants or resources, or important cultural features.*

The Tribes do not want their traditional cultural properties (TCP) identified in any manner. The Tribes do not want their TCPs documented or marked on maps or made known to the non-Indian public.

Objective TROB05: *Establish a consistent and acceptable approach to effective government-to-government consultation that provides for tribal participation and facilitates the integration of tribal interests and concerns into the planning process to inform decisions.*

It has taken years to develop consistent and acceptable approaches for effective government-to-government consultation with the three Tribes. The Heritage Program Manager communicates directly with Tribal counterparts at all three Tribes.

Payette NF personnel have been doing formal and informal consultation with the Nez Perce Tribe since 1988, and the Forest Service has on staff a tribal liaison that works for the five National Forests surrounding the reservation. Forest Supervisors from the five National Forests surrounding the Nez Perce Tribe's reservation agreed to meet annually with the Nez Perce Tribe's Executive committee to discuss the concerns of both governments. The Forest and Tribe met in May of 2008. This level of consultation has been going on since 1990. Heritage Program staff has communicated directly with Tribal archaeologists since 1988. Today, the Nez Perce Tribe has a qualified Tribal Historical Preservation Officer (THPO).

The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley do consultation using the Wings & Roots Campfire Talks medium. Heritage Program staff began attending Wings & Roots consultation meetings in 1997. The Payette NF has agreed to do consultation using the Wings & Roots medium since 2004. Every two months for a total of six times a year, technical staff and line officers meet together at the same table. This is the only time when government letters pertaining to any federal action are accepted by the

Shoshone-Paiute Tribes for serious consideration. The Payette NF personnel have found that this process to be the most effective and convenient way to do government-to-government consultation.

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall, Idaho, are the furthest in distance from the Payette NF. Technical and formal consultation began in the early 1990's. Communication on both sides has been less frequent because of the distance. However, the Tribes accept overland mail pertaining to federal actions and they respond with their concerns. The main concern of the Tribes is the habitat of the South Fork of the Salmon River where annually Tribal members return to harvest salmon.

Bighorn Sheep SEIS Tribal Cooperative Agreements

Four Tribes are Cooperators in the Draft SEIS for Bighorn Sheep which has been on-going since 2005. The participating Tribes are the Nez Perce, the Shoshone-Paiute, the Shoshone-Bannock, and the Umatilla. The combined team meets regularly and consists of Forest staff, wildlife managers and experts from the Tribes, and the states of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. The Forest Supervisor met with the leadership of all four Tribes as part of formal government to government consultation on the draft SEIS in 2008. As Cooperators Tribal representatives made official comments on the draft SEIS, and also advise the Forest Supervisor on technical issues related to Bighorn sheep viability and Tribal concerns related to the survival of the species on the Payette NF.

Objective TROB06: *Continue operating under, and update as needed, the Memorandum of Understanding with the Nez Perce Tribe.*

The Payette NF and the Nez Perce Tribe have a memorandum of agreement (MOA) pertaining to the fisheries program which was renewed in 2008. There is another memorandum of understanding (MOU) pertaining to camping without paying fees on the Payette National Forest. The Payette NF and Nez Perce Tribe also have a Watershed Restoration MOU which is in process. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes have a MOU pertaining to the Wings & Roots Campfire Talks for doing formal consultation. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes were encouraged by the Regional Office in Ogden, Utah to develop a MOA regarding doing formal consultation. However, the Tribes are not comfortable with signing such an agreement with the Forest Service.

2.1.1.16 Wilderness, Recommended Wilderness, and Inventoried Roadless Areas

Objective WROB01: *Manage designated wilderness in accordance with the current management plan for the FCRONRW.*

The Frank Church River of No Return (FCRONR) Wilderness consists of portions of five National Forests. A FCRONRW Plan was published in 2003 and incorporated into each of the five Forest's Forest Plan. This FCRONRW Management Plan requires its own specific monitoring. Monitoring elements which pertain to the Payette National Forest are discussed below.

The FCRONRW is managed by the Payette, Salmon Challis, Bitterroot and Nez Perce National Forests. A portion of the Wilderness is located on the Boise NF, but all management and administration of this portion of the FCRONRW is managed by the Salmon-Challis NF. Since the wilderness management is spread over these four forests, a Board and working group were formed to coordinate management over this vast piece of land. The Board of Directors (which includes the Directors of Recreation in both R1 and R4, the Forest Supervisor's from each of the 4 Forests) and a Working Group (which consists of wilderness specialists from each of the four forests and district rangers from each district within the FCRONRW) meet quarterly to review policy and discuss work items, review management of the Wilderness, address wilderness-wide challenges and strive for consistent management in appropriate

areas. The lead forest for coordinating this group and these meetings, is the Salmon Challis NF. Because of the complexity of managing a block of land that is administered by two Regions, four National Forests, consistent monitoring protocol across all units can be difficult.

The monitoring protocol laid out in the FCRONRW Monitor plan has reporting frequencies from annually to every 5 years, similar to the PNF monitoring schedule. In 2008 the FCRONRW working group compiled a monitoring status report that addressed what each Forest was able to accomplish in the monitoring elements. That report is contained in the project file. The top monitoring elements that the Payette NF completed and the results of the monitoring listed in the monitoring status report were:

1. **Wilderness Airstrip landings.** Aircraft landings were tracked on three of the four designated public airstrips operated and maintained by the Forest Service and located within the Payette portion of the FCRONRW, Cabin Creek, Chamberlain, and Cold Meadows. Use monitoring was also conducted on Big Creek, a State of Idaho operated airstrip located just outside the Wilderness. Items tracked were total landings and the percent breakdown between outfitter, private, charter, USFS related use. Landings were monitored on certain sample days to give an annual estimate of use on each airstrip. The year 2005 noted a slight drop in aircraft landings, particularly at Chamberlain. In 2006, all four airstrips showed an overall decline in use. In 2007, landing approximated those in 2006 to remain level. In 2008, the general trend was an up tick in use, likely related at least somewhat to the fact that there were no fire related closures of any of the airstrips that year.

The wilderness rangers have noted a trend of increasing recreation use at the four “emergency use only” landing strips located in the Big Creek and Monumental Creek drainages. These unauthorized landings have continued to escalate, and aircraft accidents are known to have occurred on all the emergency airstrips during the monitoring period. The FCRONRW management plan provides direction that these strips are to be available for emergency use only. They are not designed or classified as general public use airstrips, although they are increasingly being used in the manner.

Table 8. Airstrip Sampling Results from 2003-2008: Estimate of total landings

	Big Creek	Chamberlain	Cold Meadows	Cabin Creek
2003	936	745	173	825
2004	1058	703	No info	No info
2005	896	368	163	514
2006	756	276	144	450
2007	852	338	154	450
2008	1133	613	172	680
Totals				

2. **Wilderness Campsite Inventories.** The data collected by wilderness rangers on the Krassel RD spans a 24 year time frame and measures the change in Frissel Class over time. The frequency and type of use was tracked for each campsite inventoried. In general, campsite conditions have improved over the last 30 years on the Payette portion of the FCRONRW. Declining campsite impacts and use were recorded. There have been three rounds of campsite inventory completed in the field. The first was completed between 1981 and 1983, the second between 1991 and 1993, and the third between 2003 and 2004. In the first round 118 sites were inventoried. In the second round 135 sites were added, and 83 of the previous sites were re-inventoried. In the third round

27 sites were added and 171 of the previous sites were re-inventoried. The complete report can be found in the project file.

3. **Motorized equipment use.** The Krassel RD tracks motorized equipment intrusions throughout the year, those associated with fire management, Search and Rescue, snowmobile intrusions, mountain bike and motorized trail use and other administrative actions by the USFS or other State and Federal Agencies. Three of the last five years have been big fire years on the Payette portions of the FCRONRW. Because of the fires, motorized intrusions were greatest on these years (2004, 2006, 2007). The Forest has worked with the fire teams to try and lessen motorized impacts to the wilderness, including overflights. Protecting cultural resource sites has also resulted in some use of motorized equipment during fire season.
4. **Noxious Weed control.** Weed crews worked in the wilderness during the monitoring period of 2003-2008 and will continue to work on weed control within the FCRONRW. Target species for control are Canada Thistle, Spotted Knapweed, Rush Skeleton and Scotch Thistle. Funds have fluctuated over the 5 year monitoring program, and this has resulted in weed crew's priorities changing. Crews use both chemical and manual treatment techniques. In 2003, the crew was large and was able to accomplish 1,000 acres of monitoring for weed presence with follow-up herbicide treatment where necessary, and monitor and treat two acres with manually control – weed pulling. In 2005 the crew was reduced to 2 due to funding and focused only on high priority treatment areas. The 2006 weed crew was back up to a four person crew because of a gain in funding. Acres were both treated and inventoried. In 2007 there was a two person weed crew to accomplish both inventory and treatment. All treatment acre reports are located in the project file.
5. **Cultural Resource Site Protection.** This is especially crucial in the FCRONRW because the Central Idaho Wilderness Act has specifics regarding management and protection of Cultural Resources within the FCRONRW. An eight year PA was developed with the Idaho SHPO in 2004 that requires the four Forests that make-up the FCRONRW to accomplish certain monitoring and survey items. The Payette NF archeologist has been conducting surveys and monitoring existing sites from 2003 – 2008 and is in compliance with the PA with Idaho SHPO. A Heritage Preservation Plan still has not been completed and there is incomplete direction regarding the management of existing structures and ruins within the Wilderness. An annual report on accomplishments under the PA is being prepared for submission to the SHPO.
6. **Recreational Float Boat use.** Both the lower SFSR and Big Creek require a free special use permit prior to launching onto the rivers. These permits have been required since 2004. Water flow and fire have affected group's participation. No real trend has been established to date on the float boat use permits on the rivers.

Table 9. Float Boat permits issued/total visitors 2004 – 2008

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<i>Big Creek</i>	7/26	3/13	9/31	2/9	4/16
<i>SFSR</i>	25/139	15/75	25/165	20/92	17/108

In addition to the monitoring results tracked for the FCRONRW plan, the four Forests have also been working toward meeting the **10-year Wilderness Challenge**. Many of the elements in the 10-year challenge overlap the monitoring items listed in the FCRONRW Plan. The Wilderness Challenge began in 2004 as a national goal to improve Wilderness management across the United States. Results have been collected in a database since 2005. From 2004 through 2008 the FCRONRW has been moving toward meeting many of the challenge items. In 2007, for the first time, the FCRONRW score reached the minimum management standard with a score of 64. The complete Wilderness Challenge scores are available in the project file. Another score of 64 in 2008 ensured two straight years of scoring at the minimum management standard level.

The 10 Year Challenge Elements, with each element scored on a 1-10 scale are:

1. Direction exists in either the Forest Plan, or subsequent planning document which updated or amended the Forest Plan, addressing the natural role of fire in the wilderness and considers the full range of management responses.
2. The wilderness was successfully treated for non-native, invasive plants.
3. Monitoring of wilderness air quality values is conducted and a baseline is established for the wilderness.
4. Priority actions identified in a wilderness education plan are implemented.
5. This wilderness has adequate direction, monitoring, and management programs to protect opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.
6. The wilderness has a completed recreation site inventory.
7. Existing outfitter & guide operating plans for the wilderness direct outfitters to model appropriate wilderness practices and incorporate appreciation for wilderness values in their interaction with clients and others. Needs assessments are completed for new operations or for major changes to existing outfitter programs.
8. The wilderness had adequate direction in the Forest Plan to prevent degradation of the wilderness resource.
9. The priority information needs for the wilderness have been addressed through field data collection, storage, and analysis.
10. The wilderness has a baseline workforce in place.

Listed below is a summary of the challenge scores from 2005 – 2008, which elements met standard, and which elements did not meet standard.

FY2005: A score of 51/100 was received. The FCRONRW was able to meet minimum standard on a natural role of fire program, an air quality monitoring baseline, completion of recreation site inventories, wilderness outfitter and guide permit administration, adequate direction in planning documents to prevent degradation of the wilderness resource, and data collection.

FY2005: The FCRONRW did not meet standard on successfully treating non-native and invasive plants, identifying priority actions in a wilderness education plan, adequate direction for protection of solitude and primitive experiences, nor did the FCRONRW have an adequate work force to manage the wilderness.

FY2006: A score of 55 /100 was attained in 2006. All elements rated the same as the scores for 2005 with the exception of Element 5, which rated higher in 2006. This element addressed the ability of the FCRONRW Plan to provide components needed for the protection of solitude and primitive experiences. The rating group noted that the FCRONRW did have components needed to provide adequate opportunities for solitude or primitive experiences. The main point of contention between the rating groups from 2005 and those in 2006 revolved around the ability of the Plan to have enough specifics on number of permits allowed in the busy river corridors of the Salmon River and Middle Fork of the Salmon River, where float and motor boat traffic is high all spring, summer and fall seasons. The group that rated in 2006 felt their was adequate direction in the plan, and that majority of the 2.2 million acres of the FCRONRW did provide for solitude or primitive experiences.

FY2007: A score of 64/100 was attained in 2007, which implies that the management of the FCRONRW had reached a minimum standard. But, different groups of people compiled the score over the years so accuracy of the score can be a challenge. The main factor in the rise in score was that the FCRONRW was able to complete and begin to implement a Wilderness Interpretation and Education program. Also rising slightly in scoring were monitoring elements and data collection. Strides had been made in

organizing, collection and making available data collection modes on all four Forests within the FCRONRW. The Forests also reported out significant efforts in resource protection monitoring results.

FY2008: A score of 64/100 was again attained in 2008. Most elements rating were the same, wilderness education went down slightly due to reduced funding to implement priorities listed in the education plan, but other elements went up such as work force with a decision to count contributions made using volunteers in the work force.

In summary, FCRONRW monitoring has been accomplished on priority items from 2003 – 2008. Monitoring has focused on elements in the FCRONRW Management Plan of 2003, and on the Wilderness Challenge elements. Separating out individual Forests for monitoring report purposes is difficult because the wilderness is managed as a whole, not piece meal by each Forest. An attempt has been made to break-out Payette specific management issues for this monitoring report, and they have been discussed above.

More information about the FCRONRW can be found on the Salmon Challis website. There is a link to this site from the Payette NF website. Wilderness.net is also an excellent resource for wilderness information.

2.1.1.17 Wild and Scenic rivers

Objective WSOB01: *Emphasize the following in managing eligible and suitable Wild and Scenic Rivers: Maintaining or enhancing the outstandingly remarkable values; maintaining the free-flowing character; maintaining or enhancing values compatible with the assigned classification; and accommodating public use and enjoyment consistent with retaining the river's natural values.*

Reporting Methodology: Review planning documents and describe how each of the five Ranger Districts have responded in managing the suitable (Secesh River, South Fork Salmon River), and eligible (Hazard Creek and Hard Creek) rivers to retain their free-flowing status, classification and ORVs. Answer the questions:

1. How have we maintained or enhanced the suitability or eligibility of the Wild and Scenic Rivers?
2. Have we maintained the free-flowing character?
3. Have we accommodated public use and enjoyment consistent with retaining the river's natural values?

Eligible Rivers on the Payette NF

Rivers that have been listed as eligible, but have not gone through a Suitability study on the Payette NF are:

Hazard Creek and Hard Creek (New Meadows RD)(Located in MA 6, these two rivers are twenty-five miles in length, and are both classified as "Wild" rivers along their entire segments. They are eligible because of their geological and hydrological values. The New Meadows Ranger District has not conducted any projects/decisions signed under the 2003 PNF plan along these river corridors between 2003-2008. Routine trail maintenance along trail 164, which follows Hard Creek for approximately 3 miles, and trail 317 which follows Hazard Creek for about 1 mile has occurred. Therefore, the Forest has continued to maintain their free-flowing character, maintained their eligibility, and continues to accommodate public use by maintaining trails within the corridors.

Suitable Rivers on the PNF

Rivers that have been determined to be "Suitable" for Wild and Scenic River designation on the PNF are:

Secesh River (McCall and Krassel RD) This river is located in MA 11 from its origin in Lake Creek to its terminus when it merges with South Fork of the Salmon River. The river is considered suitable because of its fisheries ORV. A portion of Segment 2 and all of Segment 1 lie within MA11. The recommended classifications are Wild for Segment 2 and Recreational for Segment 1. The Wild Segment is an estimated 3 miles in length, the recreational segment is an estimated 23 miles in length. A portion of Segment 2 and all of Segment 3 lie within MA 12. This portion of Segment 2 also has a recommended classification of Wild and is 12 miles in length. Segment 3 has a recommended classification of Recreational and is 5 miles in length.

Described below are any factors/measures that projects took (between 2003-2008) to protect and/or enhance the Wild and Scenic River values, maintained or enhanced the suitability or eligibility of the Wild and Scenic Rivers, maintained the free-flowing character, and accommodated public use and enjoyment consistent with retaining the river's natural values. No Forest Service projects have been conducted along any segment of the Secesh River that would impact future suitability status. Free-flow has been retained, and some improvements to fish habitat will be made when road decommissioning in the Burgdorf Abandoned Mine project is completed in the future.

Projects that have occurred within the Secesh River Wild and Scenic River corridor from 2003-2008:

- Trail maintenance along trail #080, which is adjacent to a portion of the Secesh River (annually): Trail maintenance will continue to provide for public use and enjoyment of the area. It has no effect to future Wild and Scenic River Suitability.
- Burgdorf Road Management and Abandoned Mine Reclamation (2005): The proposed action activities in the DN would have beneficial effects with the reduction of erosion and sedimentation and subsequent improvement in water quality and fish habitat conditions with completed road decommissioning. This would improve water quality and the eligibility of the Secesh River for Wild and Scenic designation. The EA did not address Wild and Scenic River eligibility as an issue.
- Burgdorf Wildland/Urban Interface Fuelbreak (2003): This fuels DM did analyze effects of this projects to Wild and Scenic river suitability and determined the project was compatible with the proposed recreation classification.
- Hardy Water System Permit Renewal (2004): This water diversion is within the ¼ mile river corridor, but not visible. The system is located on a spring. Wild and Scenic River eligibility would not be affected by this water system.
- Schmick Road Easement (2007): The Decision Memo addressed the Wild and Scenic corridor, the easement granted was compatible with the river's recommended classification.
- Secesh Cemetery Townsite Act (2005): The cemetery is within the ¼ mile river corridor, and it was conveyed to Idaho County. Effects to future Wild and Scenic River suitability were not addressed with this conveyance, but should not affect the fisheries ORV.
- Secesh Wildland Urban Interface Fuelbreak (2004): This fuels DM did analyze effects of this projects to Wild and Scenic river suitability and determined the project was compatible with the proposed recreation classification.
- Wyatt Water System Permit Renewal (2004): This diversion is within the ¼ mile corridor, located on a spring. It is not visible and would not affect the W&S eligibility of the river.
- Smith Water System (2007): Water diversion is within the ¼ mile river corridor, located on Fred Creek. The DM did not reference any effects to Wild and Scenic Rivers.
- Culvert Replacement on road access into Chinook Campground, Forest Road 378 (2008): Existing road maintenance standards were applied during this project and it did not affect future eligibility of the river.

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- Idaho Roadless Rule (2008): The Rule listed the river corridor as a “Special Area” that would be managed as directed in the Payette Land Management Plan of 2003.
- Nez Perce Tribe and Idaho Department of Fish and Game screw traps and fish traps: These traps have been in Lake Creek and Secesh River for several years. They are temporary in nature and could be removed if the river was designated in the future. The traps are visible and do impede recreational use of the river. They do not lead to a deterioration of the fisheries ORV, nor do they impede the free-flowing characteristics of the river.
- Ponderosa Campground renovations (2007): New tables and fire-rings were installed, and the Krassel district closed and rehabilitated two developed campsite sites closest to the river banks for fisheries improvements. Although Wild and Scenic issues were not specifically addressed in the DM, actions taken to improve fisheries habitat, which in turn benefit the ORV for the river, which is fisheries.
- Under a RS2477 assertion, Idaho County maintains both the Burgdorf road (which parallels Lake Creek-included as Segment 1) and the road to Warren #340 (which parallels the Secesh River). Road management standards and guidelines for maintenance are provided for by the Forest and have resource protection measures in place.

South Fork Salmon River (McCall and Krassel RD) This river is located on both the Boise and Payette National Forests. The Wild and Scenic River segments on the Payette lie in MAs 12 and 14, from the boundary of the Boise and Payette National Forest at Goat Creek (along the SFSR road at the Goat Creek junction) to the rivers terminus when it merges with the Salmon River near Mackey Bar within the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. The river is considered suitable because of its scenic, recreational, geological, fisheries, ecological/botanical and cultural resource values. A portion of Segment 2 and all of Segment 3 lie within the MA 12. The Segment 2 portion is 12 miles with a recommended classification of Wild. Segment 3 is five miles long with a classification of “Recreational”. MA 14 (The Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness) contains the remainder of Segment 2 for a length of 10 miles, and a classification of “Wild”.

Described below are any factors/measures that projects (between 2003-2008) took to protect and/or enhance the Wild and Scenic River values, maintained or enhanced the suitability or eligibility of the Wild and Scenic Rivers, maintained the free-flowing character, and accommodated public use and enjoyment consistent with retaining the river’s natural values.

List of Projects that have occurred within the SFSR Wild and Scenic River corridor from 2004 – 2008:

- Brundage Mountain Land Exchange (2006): The EA for the Brundage Land Exchange does discuss Wild and Scenic River values on page 61 stating: “...acquisition of the Reed Ranch parcel would ensure that the South Fork Salmon River’s (SFSR) scenic value would be protected, maintaining the segment’s eligibility as a Wild and Scenic River consistent with the requirements of the Wild and Scenic River Act.” This land exchange benefited the suitability of the SFSR by eliminating the potential for future development within the river corridor along this section of river-front, that could have had the potential to effect scenic values, water quality and cultural resources, all of which are ORVs for this river.
- Browns Meadow (upstream from Elk Creek) Land Exchange (2003): The PNF acquired three properties previously owned by IDFG. The Forest justified acquiring this parcel of land to protect the Wild and Scenic ORVs.
- Idaho Roadless Rule (2008): The Rule listed the river corridor as a “Special Area” that would be managed as directed in the Payette Land Management Plan of 2003.
- South Fork Noxious Weeds decision (2007): Page 3-96 of the draft SFSR Subbasin Noxious Weed Management Chapter 3 EIS describes the Wild and Scenic Rivers’ presence, but does not analyze in detail any effects to the future W&S River eligibility. The document does discuss

effects to visuals, fisheries, cultural and botanical resources, which are all ORVs of the river. No long-term effects to ORVs were identified in the EIS.

- Fittsum-Dutchoven Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project (2004): The Decision Memo did not consider any affects to Wild and Scenic values, but, prescribed burning is allowed under the Recreational segment designation.
- SFSR boating permits required (2004): Permit requirements were put in place in 2004, and have no effect on the rivers future suitability. It does demonstrate the ability to accommodate and track recreational use along the “Wild” segment of the river.
- IDFG, in consultation with the Krassel RD, opened the SFSR Payette segment to recreational salmon fishing during the 2008 season: While this was not a project scoped under a NEPA analysis, there were effects to the Wild and Scenic river corridor as a result of the 2008 fishing season. The result was an increase in bank erosion along many access points down to the river. This created numerous user paths, visible from the river banks. Most effects were likely short-term in nature and did not affect the future potential of the river to be designated Wild and Scenic. It did demonstrate that the Forest responded to retaining the public’s use and enjoyment of the river.
- Tribal Fishing: Similar to sport fishing, the amount of tribal fishing in any given year influences the amount of use in the cumulative effects area. Bank erosion occurs with fisherman traveling back and forth up and down the banks.
- Badley Ditch Bill easement (2008) The water diversion is not visible from the SFSR. The structure takes water from Carlson Creek, a tributary to the SFSR. The Operation and Maintenance plan states the owner is required to put in a fish screen on the diversion, which will protect one of the ORVs, fisheries.

2.1.1.18 Research Natural Areas

Objective RNOB01: *Develop and implement management plans for established RNAs.*

In fiscal year 2008, the Payette NF continued discussion with the Intermountain Regional Office, Rocky Mountain Research Station, and the Washington Office (through the RO) regarding processes and procedures for completing management plans. The Payette NF also investigated methodologies for management plans and for changes in management prescriptions (primarily for wildland fire use and prescribed fire) from other Forests.

Visits to Research Natural Areas (RNAs) continued for a better understanding among Forest and other interested personnel on RNA management needs. This included visits to Circle End Creek, Phoebe Meadows, Cuddy Mountain, and Council Mountain.

In Fiscal Year 2008 a contract was initiated with IDFG to conduct monitoring and make recommendations for management needs in RNAs.

Objective RNOB02: *Consider recommending additional RNAs based on high priority needs as identified by, The Representitiveness Assessment of Research Natural Areas on National Forest System Lands in Idaho.*

In fiscal year 2008, contract work discussion with IDFG included proceeding in the formal establishment of Patrick Butte RNA.

2.1.1.19 Social and Economic

Objective SEOB02: *Provide opportunities for cooperation by enhancing public involvement efforts in Forest activities through the media, stakeholder workshops, personal contacts, and other methods.*

Payette NF employees worked with many individuals and groups in an effort to enhance public involvement in Forest activities. Community involvement in Forest activities occurred through citizen groups, youth groups, individual volunteers, work with State agencies, and presentations at local schools.

The Winter Recreation Forum, hosted by the McCall District, is a group comprised of a variety of local people interested in winter recreation on the Payette NF. The group, which is chaired by a member of the local community, is comprised of representatives from local business, Idaho Parks and Recreation Department, the Forest Service, and has members that represent both motorized and non-motorized winter recreation. This group has worked together to help resolve issues between winter recreation user groups.

During fiscal year 2008, the Payette NF hosted two YCC crews. Crews helped to accomplish projects across the National Forest while learning about nature and natural resource management. Additionally, the Payette NF utilizes volunteers to host Forest Service campground and clear trails through the Adopt-a-Trail program. Payette NF employees visited local schools to share information to students on forest management, wildlife and fish biology, range ecology and management, and other conservation messages. The Smoky Bear program was active in fiscal year 2008. The Payette NF worked along with IDPR to apply for grants to improve recreation opportunities on the Payette NF.

Public involvement is essential part of the environmental analysis process. The scale of public involvement is conducted relative to the context of the project. Public involvement can include only a legal notice in the news paper of record for very minor projects to mailings and public meetings for the much larger scale projects. Some level of public involvement, which provides the public an opportunity to participate and comment, occurs for most of our projects. Nineteen NEPA decisions were made on the Payette National Forest in fiscal year 2008. Public involvement was conducted on all of these projects.

2.1.2 EVALUATION OF COSTS

This section evaluates the documentation of costs of carrying out the planned management prescriptions as compared with the costs estimated in the Forest Plan, as required by Forest Plan Table IV-1, p. IV-5.

As described in Chapter IV of the Forest Plan, carrying out the intent of the Forest Plan depends on the funding allocated by Congress. During the implementation period of the former Forest Plan (1988-2003), funding was consistently lower than projections for most program areas. Therefore, the 1988 Forest Plan was implemented more slowly than projected. Table 5 compares the actual allocation for fiscal year 2008 with a level predicted based on the 2003 Forest Plan, by program area (fund type).

To predict a more realistic rate of implementation, the budget level used to develop the 2003 Forest Plan for all programs, except forest products and hazardous fuels, was based on average actual budget allocations from 2001 to 2003. Forest products and hazardous fuels reduction were based on a 10 percent increase over average service level constraints from the Forest Service Budget Formulation and Execution System (BFES). Actual allotment by fund code and program emphasis will vary on an annual basis based on Forest and Regional priorities for a given year, as well as on the will of Congress. Table 8 compares the predicted Forest Plan budget level by program area based on average allotment and Budget Formulation and Execution System (BFES), with the actual allotment for fiscal year 2008.

Table 10. Predicted Versus Actual Forest Budget Levels, Fiscal Years 2004 through 2008. (Note: Carryover dollars are not included in the current year allotment.)

Fund Code	Fund Description	Predicted Forest Plan Budget Level	FY04 Actual Allotment	FY05 Actual Allotment	FY06 Actual Allotment	FY07 Actual Allotment	FY08 Actual Allotment	Percent of Forest Plan predicted level for FY08
BDBD	Brush Disposal	\$79,510	\$109,262	\$66,404	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$183,500	231%
CMFC/CMII	Facility Construction and Deferred Maintenance	\$632,873	\$612,771	\$366,845	\$662,447	\$447,327	\$308,779	49%
CMRD	Road Construction and Maintenance	\$1,370,254	\$1,270,929	\$1,286,049	\$1,430,598	\$1,264,826	\$1,176,964	86%
CMTL	Trail Construction and Maintenance	\$301,219	\$273,269	\$250,895	\$208,443	\$286,736	\$306,986	102%
CWKV	Coop Work, KV	\$1,091,546	\$811,518	\$712,647	\$800,000	\$240,000	\$406,700	37%
NFIM	Inventory and Monitoring	\$442,160	\$460,183	\$586,839	\$369,035	\$514,765	\$663,701	150%
NFLM	Land and Ownership Management	\$308,546	\$267,594	\$216,859	\$192,937	\$172,323	\$200,661	65%
NFMG	Minerals and Geology	\$307,785	\$297,727	\$512,284	\$386,692	\$648,571	\$1,374,152	446%
NFPN	Land Management Planning	\$502,769	\$185,179	\$67,773	\$172,567	\$155,468	\$109,242	22%
NFRG	Grazing Management	\$304,207	\$434,646	\$525,926	\$337,163	\$426,888	\$489,345	161%
NFRW	Recreation/HR/Wilderness	\$733,522	\$741,141	\$851,800	\$931,288	\$805,844	\$808,807	110%
NFTM	Forest Products	\$2,522,000	\$1,858,269	\$2,033,266	\$1,963,927	\$2,673,375	\$2,721,475	108%
NFVW	Vegetation and Water	\$873,338	\$905,771	\$1,063,720	\$1,846,161	\$1,216,413	\$790,002	90%
NFWF	Wildlife and Fisheries Management	\$555,627	\$455,816	\$447,120	\$802,941	\$488,762	\$442,223	80%

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Fund Code	Fund Description	Predicted Forest Plan Budget Level	FY04 Actual Allotment	FY05 Actual Allotment	FY06 Actual Allotment	FY 2007 Actual Allotment	FY08 Actual Allotment	Percent of Forest Plan predicted level for FY08
RBRB	Range Betterment	\$33,812	\$31,430	\$45,690	\$42,448	\$64,106	\$30,339	90%
RTRT	Reforestation Trust Fund	\$293,666	\$321,067	\$394,144	\$1,159,809	\$75,310	\$42,500	14%
SSSS	Salvage Sale	\$2,743,302	\$1,749,194	\$921,896	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$150,000	5%
WFHF	Hazardous Fuels	\$1,427,000	\$1,249,727	\$883,167	\$1,641,933	\$1,223,006	\$826,244	58%
WFPR	Fire Preparedness	\$7,322,256	\$6,279,224	\$6,166,000	\$5,311,785	\$7,213,518	\$7,315,527	100%
	Total	\$21,845,392	\$18,314,717	\$17,399,324	\$18,575,174	\$18,232,238.00	\$18,347,147	84%

2.1.3 EVALUATION OF POPULATION TRENDS

This section evaluates the population trends of the management indicator species (MIS) required to be monitored and relationships to habitat changes required to be determined, as required by Forest Plan Table IV-1, on p. IV-6).

Table X shows the MIS selected for the 2003 Forest Plan. The primary reason a given MIS was selected is because its population is believed to indicate the effects of management activities. Other factors also contribute to the choice (36 CFR 219.19(a)(1)).

Table 11. Management Indicator Species for the Payette National Forest

Type	Common Name	Habitat ¹	Management Concerns
Bird Species	Pileated Woodpecker	Large tree with moderate canopy closure in PVG 3 and 6 and large trees with high canopy closure in PVGs 2, 3, 5, 6 when outside of historic range of variation (HRV)	Sufficient large trees, snags, and down logs
	White-headed Woodpecker*	Large trees with low canopy closures in PVGs 1, 2, 3, 5	Sufficient snags, and large trees with low crown density
Fish Species	Bull Trout	Perennial streams	Sediment in spawning and rearing areas, water temperature, habitat connectivity, and hybridization with brook trout

2.1.3.2 Population Trend Monitoring for Pileated and White-headed Woodpeckers

Background: The Payette NF MIS monitoring strategy is designed to provide a measure of the population trend for two management indicator species: pileated woodpecker and white-headed woodpecker. In addition, the strategy can be used to investigate relationships between MIS presence, habitat conditions, and management actions across the landscape.

The monitoring strategy adopted by the Payette NF is based on standardized bird monitoring methods (i.e., Hamel et. al. 1996 and Ralph et. al. 1993) and has been ongoing since 2004. Based on 3-4 years of monitoring results, the PNF determined that a revised study design was needed to adequately monitor MIS species. The Forest is working with Vicki Saab, a researcher with the Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS), to revise the study design for pileated woodpeckers and white-headed woodpeckers. The revised technique for these species was instigated in 2008. The first year results are included in a separate report; *“Management Indicator Species Surveys on the Payette National Forest 2008: Field testing of methods.”*

2.1.4 EVALUATION OF WATERSHED RESTORATION

This section evaluates the accomplishment of restoration objectives in the ACS (Aquatic Conservation Strategy) Priority Subwatersheds.

The ACS is a long-term strategy to restore and maintain the ecological health of watersheds and aquatic ecosystems contained within National Forest System lands. It is a refinement and furtherance of approaches outlined in the ICBEMP Implementation Strategy and the USFWS and NMFS 1998 Biological Opinions. It provides direction to maintain and restore characteristics of healthy, functioning watersheds, riparian areas, and associated fish habitats.

There are eight ACS components. Any of these components has the potential to influence any of the factors of decline or the recovery/restoration strategy.

1. Goals to Maintain and Restore SWRA (Soil, Water, Riparian, Aquatic) Resources
2. Watershed Condition Indicators for SWRA Resources
3. Delineation of Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs)
4. Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines for Management of SWRA Resources, including RCAs
5. Determination of Priority Subwatersheds within Subbasins
6. Multi-Scale Analyses of Subbasins and Subwatersheds
7. Determination of the Appropriate Type of Subwatershed Restoration and Prioritization
8. Monitoring and Adaptive Management Provisions

The ACS incorporates the monitoring goals identified in the ICBEMP Implementation Strategy and associated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Work Completed and Findings: In FY2008, emphasis was placed on Burned Area Emergency Response and post-fire recovery projects associated with the Cascade Complex and East Zone Complex fires.

Table 12. Accomplishments in ACS Priority Watersheds.

Project Name	Subwatershed Name and HUC Number	Acres of Soil and Water Resources Improved	Miles of Road Decom.	Miles of Stream Habitat Enhanced	WARS Priority	ACS Priority
Burgdorf Road EA	Grouse Creek #170602081309	5	1		High	Yes
Cascade BAER	SFSR Basin #17060208	526.5	4.6		High	Yes
East Zone BAER	SFSR Basin #17060208	282.5	11.0		High	Yes
TOTAL		814	16.6			

2.1.5 EVALUATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

This section evaluates compliance of projects with terms and conditions or reasonable and prudent measures that resulted from consultation with the USFWS and NOAA Fisheries as provided in Section 7(a) of the Endangered Species Act.

The BO on the Forest Plan from NOAA dated June 9, 2003, contains a number of terms and conditions. Project implementation needs to be in compliance with those terms and conditions. For project specific discussions of compliance with the BO in 2008 please review the Biological Evaluations, Assessments, and Opinions found on the Payette National Forest website.

2.1.5.1 Fisheries Consultation Requirements

In the Table 13, the left hand column briefly summarizes the specific term and condition from the BO, and the right-hand column summarizes how the Forest met or made progress toward that term and condition in 2008.

Table 13. Compliance with Terms and Conditions for Reasonable and Prudent Measures Required by NOAA Fisheries.

Terms and Conditions	Compliance in 2008
# 1 – To implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure #1, clarification of local sideboards. the Forest Service shall:	
<i>A. RCAs – Assess effectiveness of floodprone widths</i>	RCA delineation is occurring as part of project development and riparian monitoring. Project development identifies local landslide hazards.
<i>B. Landslide Prone – Stratify by hazard class</i>	Completed as for RCAs
<i>C. Definitions – Identify change to WCIs and potential effects to WCIs over 3 temporal scales</i>	Changes to WCIs and effects over temporary, short-term, and long-term timescales are evaluated as part of project development. Preliminary development of tentative temperature WCIs for redband trout were proposed in 2007.
<i>D. Fire Management – Develop operational resource guidelines prior to 2004 season</i>	For fire, also see TEOB23 above. In fiscal year 2008, no variances from guidelines were identified. No consultations occurred in which limitations on the Forest Service authority needed clarification..
# 2 – To Implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure #2, maintain link between LRMP and Broadscale restoration/recovery strategies, the Forest Service shall:	
<i>A. IIT – Provide oversight and accountability body linking to IIT</i>	In fiscal year 2008, coordination with the Interagency Implementation Team (IIT) field crews occurred multiple times.
<i>B. In Upper Salmon, SFSR, and Little Salmon - Framework must be in place to implement “likely to adversely affect” actions</i>	Framework has not been completed, but the Forest presented a draft “Framework” document to the NMFS and USFWS in 2008.
# 3 – To Implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure #3, Upper Salmon and South Fork Salmon direction, the Forest Service shall:	
<i>A. Do not increase ECA above 15% in watersheds with ESA-listed anadromous fishes.</i>	In fiscal year 2008, no ECA increases were planned over 15%. See 2008 Bas for discussion of ECA by project. See Project BAs on the Monitoring website.
<i>B. In the South Fork Salmon River (SFSR):</i>	Completed. See FY 2006 report.
<i>1. Revise the default WCIs to values appropriate for the Subbasin</i>	Completed. See FY 2006 report.
<i>2. Continue sampling, analysis, and annual reporting of sediment levels.</i>	Sampling occurred in 2007. Data were compiled, analyzed, and 3 reports covering data through 2007 were completed (Nelson 2007, Nelson and Burns 2007; Nelson et al. 2007).
<i>3. Projects must meet criteria if even a negligible likelihood to adversely effect</i>	Actions at Meadow Creek are being monitored to assure that mitigation measures are effective.

Summary of White Paper on WCIs in the South Fork Salmon River

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) BO (Term and Condition 3.B.1.) for the 2003 Forest Plans required the Payette and Boise NF to revise the default sediment watershed condition indicator (WCI) values to something more appropriate for the South Fork of the Salmon River.

On July 13, 2005, the Payette and Boise NF Supervisors transmitted the final version of this white paper to NMFS and documented interagency agreement on the white paper and use of its revised values for analysis of effects for future projects within the South fork of the Salmon River basin. The sediment WCI paper is entitled, *Developing Appropriate Sediment-Related Watershed Condition Indicators for National*

Environmental Policy Act Analyses and Biological Assessments in the South Fork Salmon River Basin (Burns and Nelson 2005).

The analysis supporting the paper estimated what watershed condition indicators researchers could expect in streams functioning at the three categories defined in the Forest Plan (Functioning at Acceptable Risk, Functioning at Risk, and Functioning at Unacceptable Risk). The paper proposed four major categorical changes: (1) modifications to the indicator names; (2) combining indicators for salmonids where appropriate and rearranging species associations; (3) using free matrix counts in preference to cobble embeddedness measurements for interstitial conditions; and (4) eliminating or relegating surface fines to a support role.

These proposed WCIs incorporate inherent variability so that risks to the aquatic system can be minimized when Forest projects are planned and implemented in the granitic portions of the South Fork Salmon River. The Payette and Boise NF will now proceed with the use of the revised sediment WCI values for analysis in future biological assessments.

2.1.5.2 Wildlife Consultation Requirements

For wildlife the components are conservation measures, not terms and conditions, and thus do not have a mandatory reporting requirement.

2.2 MONITORING ELEMENTS FROM TABLE IV-2 OF THE FOREST PLAN WITH ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

As described in Chapter IV of the Forest Plan, monitoring elements were designed around monitoring questions that need to be answered about Forest Plan implementation. These questions are key to determining if implementation is moving toward the desired conditions in the Forest Plan. This section summarizes the findings for those elements required annually.

2.2.1 ANNUAL MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

2.2.1.1 Safety of Administrative Facilities

Monitoring Question: *Are administrative sites safe and accessible for visitors and employees including drinking water sources?*

Indicator: On-site inspection of facilities and drinking water testing.

Work Completed and Findings: During 2008, the requirement for inspecting 20% of facilities was met.

2.2.1.2 Safety of Developed Recreation Sites

Monitoring Question: *Are developed recreation sites free of high-risk conditions? Do water systems meet Federal, State, and local requirements?*

Indicator: On-site inspection of facilities and drinking water testing.

Work Completed and Findings: Developed Campground water systems were tested per requirements during the operating season. All water systems in developed sites had required sanitary surveys and inspections. All test results were entered into the INFRA Water Sampling data base. Water system

improvements to the existing wells at Cold Springs Campground Well #2, Hazard Lake Campground, Upper Payette Lake Campground Well #1 and #2 were completed in 2008 to improve water clarity, taste, and quality.

2.2.1.3 Protection of Historic Properties

Monitoring Question: *Are historic properties being affected by project activities?*

Indicator: Assess the effects of project implementation on selected projects for at least 5% of the projects for which cultural resource management approval had been recommended during the previous year(s).

Work Completed: In 2008, the Heritage Program reviewed 131 federal actions for their potential to affect historic properties. Most of these federal actions had formal consultation with the Idaho SHPO. Some of the livestock range allotment NEPA reviews initiated in previous years were completed and sent to Idaho SHPO for review and comment. Some SHPO comments were returned with requests to provide additional information. Some proposed federal actions had adverse effect determinations requiring ongoing consultation and mitigation measures to resolve the adverse effects.

Summary of the Findings: All fiscal year 2008 projects implemented on the Payette NF with historic properties received formal reviews and consultation with the Idaho SHPO. Most of these federal actions with historic properties were monitored during or soon after project implementation. Projects implemented in 2008 caused no affects to historic properties.

2.2.1.4 Watershed Restoration and Conservation Activities

Monitoring Question: *Have restoration and conservation activities been focused in priority watersheds identified by the WARS process?*

Indicator: Program reviews, total dollars spent and amount of restoration activity in high priority vs. other 6th field watersheds.

Work Completed and Findings: In FY 2008, a total of 859 watershed improvement acres, 25.6 miles of road obliteration, and 3.0 miles of fisheries habitat enhancement were reportedd accomplished. Using our normal appropriation, the large majority of restoration was focused on completing the backlog of road obliteration and road closures in the Mann Creek Subwatersheds which are given a low WARS priority rating.

The primary emphasis was placed on Burned Area Emergency Response and post-fire recovery projects associated with the Cascade Complex and East Zone Complex fires.

Table 14. Watershed and Road Restoration Completed in ACS Priority and Other Subwatersheds

Project Name	Subwatershed Name and HUC Number	Acres of Soil and Water Resources Improved	Miles of Road Decom.	Miles of Stream Habitat Enhanced	WARS Priority	ACS Priority
Mann Cr FEIS	Upper Mann Cr 170501240103	15.5	3.1		Low	No
Mann Cr FEIS	Middle Mann Cr 170501240102	19	3.8		Low	No
Mann Cr FEIS	Upper Mann Cr 170501240103	10.5	2.1		Low	No
Burgdorf Road EA	Grouse Creek #170602081309	5	1		High	Yes
Meadows Slope EIS	Little Salmon-6 mi 170602100203	0	0	3.0	Mod	No
Cascade BAER	SFSR Basin #17060208	526.5	4.6		High	Yes
East Zone BAER	SFSR Basin #17060208	282.5	11.0		High	Yes
TOTAL		859	25.6			

2.3 PROJECT LEVEL MONITORING

During fiscal year 2008, five projects were reviewed by Forest Specialists: BearTornado Recovery Project, Lick Creek Cattle & Horse Allotment, Lost Valley NIDGS Habitat Improvement Area, Middle Little Salmon Vegetation Management Project, and Warm Springs Cattle & Horse Allotment. Documentation of these reviews can be found in the project record.

3. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT TIMING

The 2008 Monitoring and Evaluation report documents and discloses the activities from fiscal years 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 (October 2004 – September 2008). The Payette NF will continue to issue the Forest Plan Monitoring and Evaluation reports by September of the following year. Each year’s report describes findings from monitoring data collected through the prior year’s field season compiled and evaluated during the winter of the reporting year.

Each Forest Plan Monitoring and Evaluation report is intended to be a “living” document, meaning information displayed in the 2008 report will be added to the 2009 report. Much of what is learned from monitoring and evaluation is based on how things evolve from year to year, rather than what is learned at a single point in time. For example, trends and answers to several of the questions in Forest Plan Table IV-1 and Table IV-2 become clearer with the accumulation of annual data. .

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These are the members of the Payette National Forest interdisciplinary team who developed this monitoring report.

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5. ACRONYMS AND REFERENCES

ACRONYMS

ACS - Aquatic Conservation Strategy	NAAQS - National Ambient Air Quality Standards
AMS - Airshed Management System	NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act
ARAR - Annual Roads Accomplishment Report	NIDGS - northern Idaho ground squirrel
ASQ - Allowable Sale Quantity	NF - National Forest
ATV - All Terrain Vehicle	NFMA - National Forest Management Act
BA - Biological Assessment	NFS - National Forest System
BAER - Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation	NHPA - National Historic Preservation Act
BFES - Budget Formulation and Execution System	NMFS - National Marine Fisheries Service
BLM - Bureau of Land Management	NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
BO - Biological Opinion	NOI - Notice of Intent
COGS - Columbian ground squirrel	NRHP - National Register of Historic Places
CWMA - Coordinated Weed Management Area	NRIS - Natural Resource Information System
DN - Decision Notice	ORV - Outstandingly Remarkable Values
EA - Environmental Assessment	PNW - Pacific Northwest
EIS - Environmental Impact Statement	SHPO - State Historic Preservation Office
Forest Plan - Payette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	SWRA - Soil, Water, Riparian, Aquatic
EPA - Environmental Protection Agency	RAC - Resource Advisory Committee
ESA - Endangered Species Act	RAP - Road Analysis Process
FCRONR - Frank Church River of No Return	RCA - Riparian Conservation Area
FMP - Facility Master Plan	RNA - Research Natural Area
FONS I - Finding of No Significant Impact	ROD - Record of Decision
FRTA - Forest Roads and Trails Act	TEPC - Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, or Candidate Species under ESA
FSM/FSH - Forest Service Manual/Handbook	TMDL - Total Maximum Daily Loads
FY - Fiscal Year	TSPQ - Total Sale Program Quantity
GSA - General Services Administration	TSRC - Total Soil Resource Commitment
GIS - Geographic Information System	USDA - United States Department of Agriculture
ICBEMP - Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project	USDA-APHIS - USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
ICDC - Conservation Data Center	USFS - US Forest Service
ID - Interdisciplinary	USFWS - US Fish and Wildlife Service
IDEQ - State of Idaho, Department of Environment Quality	WAG - Watershed Advisory Groups
IDFG - Idaho Department of Fish and Game	WARS - Watershed and Aquatic Recovery Strategy
IDL - Idaho Department of Lands	WCI - Watershed Condition Indicator
IDPR - Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation	WCS - Wildlife Conservation Strategy
IDWR - Idaho Department of Water Resources	WFU - Wildland Fire Use
IIT - Interagency Implementation Team	WS - Wildlife Services
MIS - Management Indicator Species	WUI - Wildland Urban Interface
MMBF - Million board feet	WWW - World Wide Web
MOA - Memorandum of Agreement	YCC - Youth Conservation Crews
MOU - Memorandum of Understanding	

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