

10. Outputs

This section looks at estimated outputs for Decade 1 and recognizes accomplishments in non-timber resource areas. Information is specific to the estimated amount of an activity or Practice listed on Table APP-D4 in the Forest Plan, Appendix D. Proposed and Probable Practices, Goods Produced, and Other Information. Table APP-D4 lists forest management activities, other than timber harvest, that are proposed to work toward the desired conditions and objectives during the first 10 years of Plan implementation. Timber outputs are discussed in another section.

Key Points

- The Forest is making good progress with regard to stream channel reconstruction, wildlife habitat restoration, and road decommissioning.
- Areas that need attention are sensitive plant habitat restoration, new water access sites, and new snowmobile trail designation.

Monitoring Requirement:

How close are projected outputs and services to actual?

Table 10-1. Proposed Practices and accomplishment by FY.

Table APP-D4: Proposed Practices (Forest-wide)		Accomplished*						
Activity or Practice	Estimated Amount for decade 1	Total	FY 2010	FY 2009	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2006	FY 2005
Stream Channel Reconstruction	5 to 30 miles	33 miles	11 miles	5 miles of stream restored or enhanced	5 miles of stream restored or enhanced	4 miles of stream restored or enhanced	2 miles of stream restored or enhanced 0.1 mile of reconstruction	5 miles of stream restored or enhanced
Sensitive Plant Habitat Restoration	20 projects	--		In progress	In progress	0	0	0
Wildlife Habitat Restoration	80 projects	10,809	5017 acres	1733 acres terrestrial	650 acres terrestrial	500 acres terrestrial	655 acres terrestrial	1254 acres terrestrial
		259	25 Structural Improvements	--	40 structural improvements	35 structural improvements	66 structural improvements	133 structural improvements
		691	90 lake acres	40 acres aquatic	102 acres aquatic	0 acres aquatic	60 acres aquatic	399 acres aquatic
New ATV trail designated (maximum amount listed)	90 miles	1.5	1.5	0	0	0	0	0
New Snowmobile trail designated (maximum amount listed)	100 miles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Water Access Sites (maximum amount listed)	5 sites	?	?	?	0	0	0	0
Roads Constructed (only OML –1 roads being constructed)	19 miles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roads decommissioned (system and unauthorized roads)	200 miles	140	10.6 4.8 miles unauthorized	22 11.8 miles unauthorized	12.4; 14.8 miles unauthorized	1.1	14.8; 2.52 miles unauthorized	13.2; 28.9 in FY 2004

*Accomplishments include projects completed using Forest Service and partnership funds combined

Results

Discussed below are areas of accomplishment pertinent to stream channel reconstruction, wildlife habitat restoration, and road decommissioning.

Stream and Wildlife Habitat Restoration Summaries

In FY 2010, the Chippewa's Wildlife, Fish, and Rare Plants (WFRP) staff accomplished and supported 42 WFRP related projects totaling over \$541,000. Of these 42 projects, 26 were accomplished with partners, who include natural resource professionals from Tribal and governmental agencies, lake and watershed associations, local schools and universities, and civic organizations. Together we accomplished:

- 5017 acres of terrestrial habitat improvement
- 90 acres of lake/riparian habitat improvements & 11 miles of stream habitat improved or restored
- Annual Maintenance and decommissioning of 26 impoundments.
- Over 150 nest platforms, wood duck boxes, and owl boxes placed or repaired across the Forest
- Continuation of a five year Challenge Cost Share Agreement with Leech Lake Band of Obijwe that involves the operation and maintenance of Forestwide impoundments
- American Recovery Act Project Planning and Implementation
- 8 naturewatch presentations on wildlife, fish, and rare plants which included "Youth Bird Banding Program", National Professional Walleye Tournament invasive species awareness presentations, and numerous "Take a Kid Fishing Events".

Sensitive Plant Restoration

Forest projects to transplant Showy Lady Slipper, plant Canada yew, plant/grow sweetgrass (Tribal cultural species) have contributed to efforts to restore plants, although all of these species are not sensitive plants. The Forest has also been a leader in American Elm restoration with three test plots of various cultivars in hopes that elms will resume their role in ecosystem function on a landscape scale. The Forest has also protected sites of biodiversity significance recognized by the DNR and protected Barrot's Bog.

New ATV trail designation

Since the OHV decision in 2007 (refer to OHV section for more discussion), 1.5 miles of new ATV trail has been designated.

New snowmobile trail designation

No new snowmobile trails have been designated since 2004.

New Water Access Sites

It is uncertain how many new water access sites have been developed on the Forest since 2004.

Roads constructed

OML 1 roads (temporary) roads have been constructed and are planned for decommissioning. No OML 2-5 roads have been constructed.

Road Decommissioned

In FY 2010 the Forest decommissioned 10.6 miles of system road and 4.8 miles of unauthorized roads. Road decommissioning is defined as activities that result in the stabilization and restoration of unneeded roads to a more natural state. A total of 140 miles has been decommissioned since the inception of the Forest Plan. The decommissioning was completed through a mixture of tree plantings, placing rock berms at the entrances, slashing trees, and also through natural revegetation.

Implications

The Forest is making good progress with regard to stream channel reconstruction, wildlife habitat restoration, and road decommissioning.

Areas that need attention are sensitive plant habitat restoration, new water access sites, and new snowmobile trail designation.

Clarification is needed on the types of projects the Forest can implement for sensitive plant restoration. Site protection or avoidance is not intended to contribute to sensitive plant restoration.

Several new water access sites have been identified in environmental assessments and decisions made to increase or replace existing accesses. The Forest Plan states “Reconstruction that would increase the capacity and type of use at a body of water is considered new access” (S-RWA-1) (FP, p. 2-43). It is uncertain how many new water access sites have been implemented since 2004 or if these are the highest priority sites across the Forest.

There is a potential conflict with an increase in snowmobile trails and the affect on lynx. The Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy identified that effects of roads and recreational winter trails are largely focused on winter access into lynx habitat (Ruediger et al. 2000). Since there has not been an increase in the snowmobile routes across the Forest, there is no reduction in large tracts of undisturbed areas desirable for lynx. However, recognition of the conflict should result in some type of resolution. The section on “Over the Snow Trails” has more discussion on this topic.

Recommendations

- Review the intent of the Forest Plan with regards to new boat accesses and determine priority sites forest-wide. Determine the number of new accesses that have been or will be built. In addition, a common understanding of the Forest Plan direction and intent is needed among the Line Officers and planning teams.
- Reconcile the discrepancy between new snowmobile trails and lynx habitat (O-RMV-2 and S-SWL-2) in terms of the original intent of the Forest Plan.
- Look for opportunities to restore sensitive plant habitats.

- The Fish and Wildlife Program should continue active collaboration with local DNR offices and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Department of Resource Management and update and renew all applicable MOUs and working agreements with State, Federal, Tribal and user group partners.
- Funding in other resource areas such as that for Watershed Restoration, Wildlife Habitat and Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive species protection should be directed toward road decommissioning and impoundment maintenance, prescribed burning in critical habitat areas, and operations when removal or closure of system or unauthorized roads meets objectives for those resources.