

Recreation Site and Trail Use Effects on Land Item 29

OBJECTIVE: Identify areas that are proceeding toward irreversible ecosystem damage.

DATA SOURCE: Site and trail inspection and interdisciplinary team review.

FREQUENCY: Annually (25 percent of high use areas and trails).

REPORTING PERIOD: 1999.

VARIABILITY: Irreversible ecosystem damage.

EVALUATION:

We did not identify any irreversible ecosystem damage attributable to recreation site and trail use in 1999.

MONITORING RESULTS:

Areas of concern addressed in FY1999 included three dispersed camping sites along Tin Cup Creek and one site along Sleeping Child Creek. The impacts caused by these sites were mitigated by placing large boulders to restrict vehicle access to the creek.

The roadway and trail to Bass Lake were monitored in August. Rehabilitation work on the roadway and trail were accomplished following the reconstruction of Bass Dam. The rehabilitation involved improving drainage and narrowing the tread on the trail, as well as minimizing the effects of heavy equipment traveling through the area on the way to the dam. Last year's monitoring report indicated a need to armor some drainage dips and improve visual screening where the road intersects the trail. The Forest completed these improvements in FY1999. Because of the ground disturbance, noxious weeds increased. We treated these infestations in FY1999 and will continue to monitor the area annually.

Trail reconstruction or rerouting projects are done annually to rectify specific situations where use is causing resource damage.

