

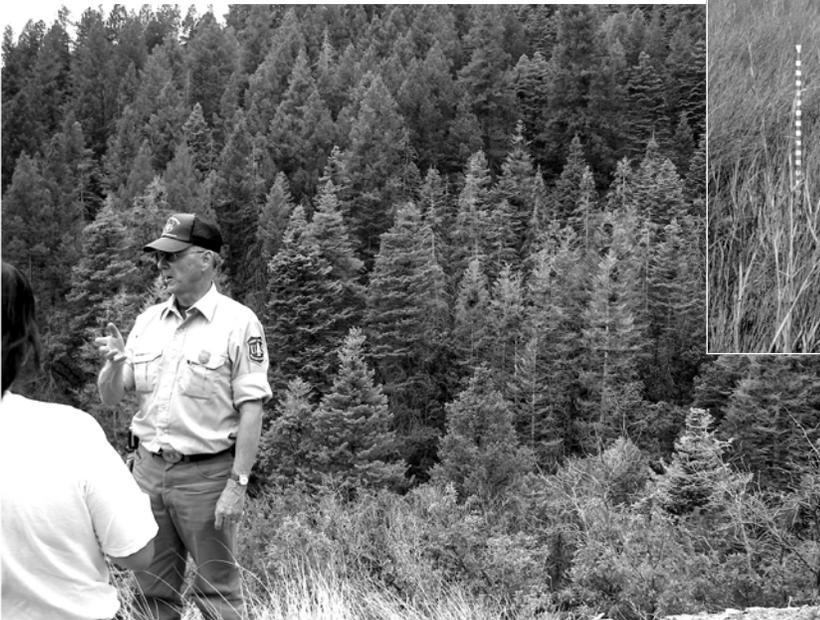
United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service

Southwestern  
Region

March 2010

# Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands Fiscal Year 2009 Monitoring and Evaluation Report



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## Forest Supervisor Certification

I certify that the Cibola National Forest Plan (Forest Plan) as amended is sufficient to guide future management of the Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands until the plan revision process is completed.

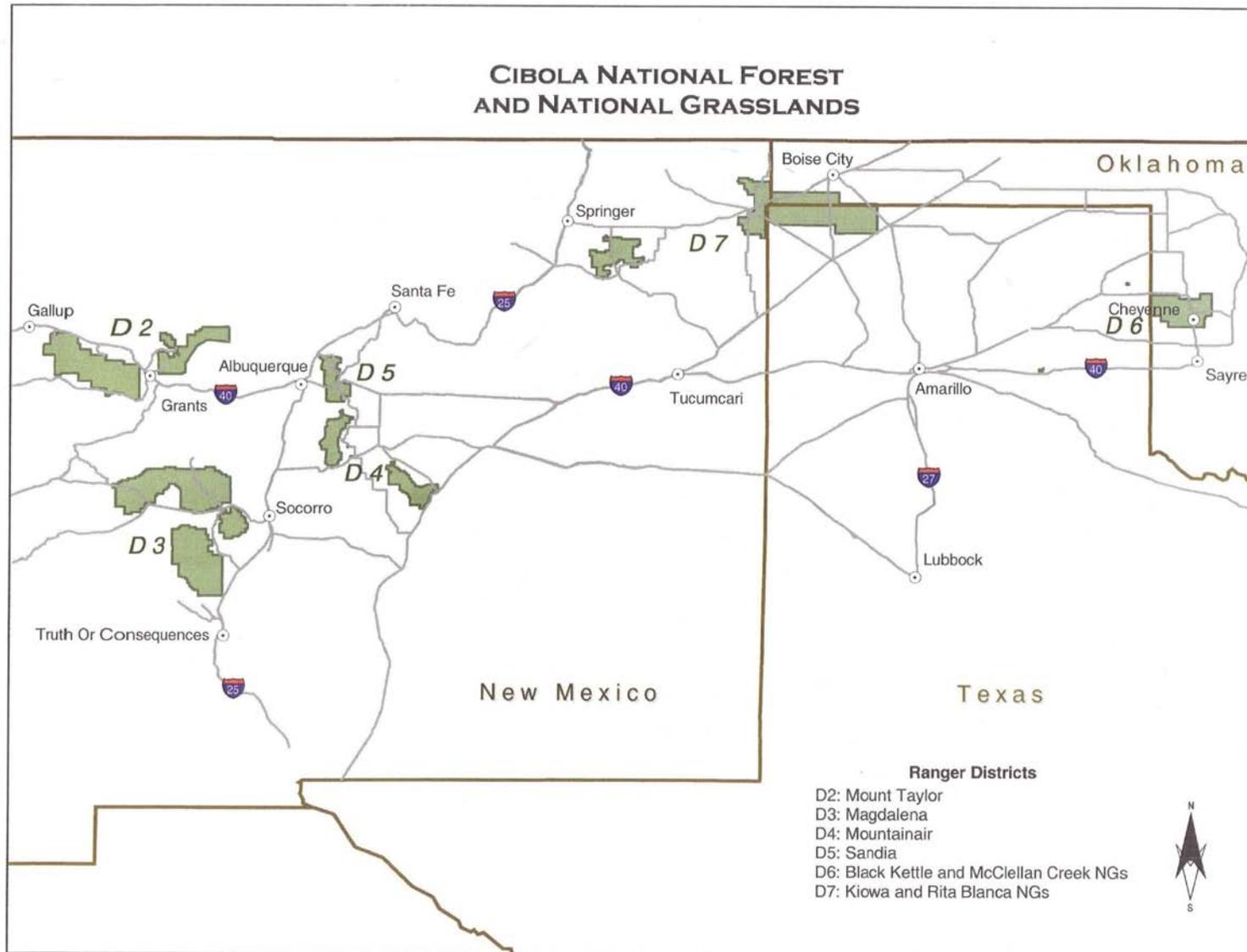
This Monitoring and Evaluation Report meets regulatory requirements for completing an annual report for the fiscal year of 2009, based on Section 219 of the 1982 planning rule.

*Nancy Rose*

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Nancy Rose, Forest Supervisor

*March 31, 2010*

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Date



## Executive Summary

This report presents fiscal year (FY) 2009 monitoring results of land and resource management activities important to achieving Forest-wide goals stated in the 1985 Cibola National Forest Plan and other, more recent initiatives and mandates.

This section summarizes the monitoring table found on pages 7 to 33. It reports monitoring results and inferences that are anticipated to be relevant to future management.

Cultural resources monitoring in fiscal year FY 2009 consisted of 48 heritage resource sites that were determined to be eligible for the National Registry. Eighty surveys were conducted for Section 106 clearances, and 22 sites were inspected to satisfy deferred maintenance requirements or were opportunistic inspections (non project related)

Monitoring by the engineering program shows that one mile of new road was constructed on the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands in FY 2009. Approximately 277 miles of Forest Service roads were maintained, and no roads were obliterated. Emphasis for FY 2010 and beyond will be working with the Ranger Districts on Travel Management planning and developing an inventory of all roads on FS lands.

The fire program monitored several prescribed burns and small, resource benefit wildland fires in FY 2009. Due to an above-normal year for winter and spring precipitation, there were fewer wildland fires and those that did occur were smaller in size. Monitoring results indicate that it is likely better to wait two years post fire damage to assess reforestation needs. On the Trigo and Dripping Springs, and Ojo Peak wildfire burns, extensive first order fire effects (mortality) are apparent. The Cibola will continue to monitor post fire mortality for next several years, and tree planting may be needed within the Lake McClellan developed recreation area.

Fire prevention monitoring showed the need for more outreach to local communities and technical assistance to carry out an effective program. Despite fire prevention education efforts, there continue to be people who do not know about fire prevention programs or do not choose to follow recommended guidelines. However, residents adjacent to Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas are starting to do treatments on private land based on information that is being shared. Nonetheless, fire hazard levels support a need to increase efforts to assist communities in developing a Firewise program. Collaboration with the East Mountain Interagency Fire Protection Assoc. (EMIFPA) for fire prevention/education outreach and interagency cross training is desirable. In FY 2009, the Cibola developed a comprehensive Communication Plan to provide better public communication.

Fire and fuels monitoring indicated that there needs to be a Region 3 fuels monitoring protocol standardized across Forests, including the Cibola.

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Monitoring of activities associated with the forestry program revealed a need greater law enforcement presence to facilitate fuelwood permit and contract compliance. Resource damage is occurring in some areas due to insufficient law enforcement and the lack of qualified Forest Protection Officers to enforce permit and contract requirements. This is primarily a function of reduced budgets and zoning in law enforcement and their inability to adequately staff for the complexity of law enforcement issues occurring on the Forest and within their Zone.

The spread of insects and disease and their associated effects is continuing to affect the Forest in various places. Slash from mechanical thinnings need to be monitored more closely for insect outbreaks and infestations, particularly on the Mount Taylor District. On the Sandia Ranger District, high mortality from tussock moth infestation has left many hazard trees in recreation sites. Hazard trees in and around the Sandia recreation sites are felled by Forest Service volunteers and can be gathered under fuelwood permits. Monitoring in FY 2009 reaffirms that it is almost impossible to cut and remove dead, hazardous trees at a pace that matches the rate of mortality. Coordination with the Forest and Zone wildlife biologists in removing hazard trees is reducing the impact on cavity nesters.

In FY 2009, intermediate harvests occurred on 1,019 acres and timber stand improvement occurred on 370 acres.

Monitoring forest and watershed health across the Forest has shown that at the current management regime and funding levels, the Forest does not have the ability to accomplish activities at a scale large enough to change the landscape. However, strategic placements of treatments accomplished jointly by Forestry, Watershed, Wildlife and Fuels programs can assist in treating the areas prioritized as having the most resources at risk.

Lands adjustments monitoring indicates that the acquisition of three private inholdings are proceeding. The Forest also is pursuing 1 right-of-way. Through travel management analysis, rights-of-way are being identified and opportunities explored.

Minerals monitoring activities indicated significant uranium exploration interests exist. Also, compliance inspections in this arena are reduced compared to past years, due to limited personnel. A significant number of mineral withdrawals need to be reviewed and appropriate action taken. The Forest is working with a BLM contractor to complete review and backlog of mineral withdrawals at special use, recreation and administrative sites by the spring of 2010.

Range monitoring has shown that weather and climate continue to be the most frequent reasons for adjusting grazing strategies through adaptive management processes. On the Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands, drought in FY 2009 combined with cumulative effects of below normal rainfall in preceding years and resulted in lower forage production. Death of some forage plants is evident in Cimarron County, Oklahoma and Union county, New Mexico. Adaptive management has enhanced permittee

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compliance and is helping to meet management goals and objectives. Annual planning and cooperative strategizing has resulted in increased permittee compliance. Monitoring and analysis for rangeland ecological health has shown that conditions are shifting towards desired conditions in some areas. All inspected pastures were in compliance with the Annual Operation Instructions for FY 2009.

In the recreation program, considerable progress has been made in new trail construction and ongoing maintenance, including erosion control on burned and high use trails. On Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands, there has been increased developed recreation persons-at-one-time (PAOT) capacity due to completion of the Mills Canyon campground project. Forest-wide, there is a need for better law enforcement on some trails to control unauthorized use (ATV use on snowmobile trails). Hazard trees continue to be an issue along trails.

The soil and water/watershed program reported restoration treatments on riparian areas on the Mountainair District to bring them toward functional conditions. The Forest is now using Terrestrial Ecological Unit data to protect soil during fuelwood harvests.

Monitoring of special use permits shows that permits issued for longer terms reduce the burden of re-issuance. However, compliance inspections are severely reduced due to limited personnel, and violations of permit conditions are occurring.

Monitoring of projects for wildlife habitat improvement has led to several observations about their effectiveness. Forest-wide thinning has improved vegetation and water production and resulted in heavy use by elk. Cattle and elk grazing cumulatively are having detrimental effects on vegetation on the Magdalena District. New goshawk territories were discovered at David Canyon on the Sandia District, and a PFA was established. Two of three goshawk territories fledged young. No southwestern willow flycatchers were detected despite available and suitable habitat on Mount Taylor and Mountainair Districts. Ponderosa pine/Gambel Oak PACs for Mexican spotted owl were more productive on Magdalena District than were mixed conifer Protected Activity Centers (PACs). Peregrine falcons' overall occupancy is slightly increasing on the Cibola. A closure order was issued on Sandia District to protect this species. Management indicator species are stable or increasing throughout the forest. Raptor passage rages on Mountainair and Magdalena Districts generally increased (with exceptions) for buteos and decreased (with exceptions) for falcons, accipiters, and vultures in FY 2009. On the Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands, black-tailed prairie dogs were monitored by Kansas State Univ. and other partners. Forest-wide, monitoring in FY 2009 showed that the use of artificial watering sites is inversely correlated to the availability of natural water sources. The use of water developments decreases with the availability of natural water. Monitoring of the Habitat Stamp program provides data that is helpful in determining maintenance needs of wildlife structures. Data suggests riparian enclosures are of limited effectiveness in recovering riparian vegetation.

## Forest Plan Background and Amendments

The Forest Plan and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) were published in 1985. Preliminary Forest staff recommendations for updating the Forest Plan were developed in 1996-1999 and are contained in the Geographic Area Assessments produced by the Interdisciplinary Team.

The following amendments have been made to the 1985 Forest Plan:

<b>Amendment Number</b>	<b>Decision Date</b>	<b>Amendment Description</b>
Amendment #1	01/09/87	Clarified language throughout all five chapters
Amendment #2	05/25/89	Added electronic site near Boise City, OK for the Coast Guard's Long-Range Aid to Navigation (LORAN-C)
Amendment #3	06/30/89	Changed timber projections based on projects in Las Huertas Canyon near Placitas, NM
Amendment #4	05/29/90	Revised the 10-year timber sale schedule, amended fire management Standards & Guidelines (S&Gs), added black bear and curlew to the MIS list, changed ROS for MAs 8 and 13, RATM
Amendment #5	06/27/90	Designated Oso Ridge Lookout as an electronic site
Amendment #6	09/06/91	Established S&Gs for capital investment priorities and Sandia winter use; added the grasshopper sparrow to the MIS list; and established S&Gs for Aberts squirrel
Amendment #7	09/09/96	Added Regional direction for management of Mexican spotted owl, northern goshawk, grazing, old growth
Amendment #8	12/20/96	Returned federal lands near Kirkland Air Force Base from DOE back to the National Forest System
Amendment #9	09/18/97	Established Bernalillo Watershed Research Natural Area
Amendment #10	10/17/02	Identified eligible wild and scenic rivers and added direction for protecting their values
Amendment #11	07/10/08	Changes to Sandia RD direction required by Travel Management decision
Amendment #12	08/26/08	Changes to Grasslands (Management Areas 4 and 5) oil and gas leasing stipulations

## **Table of Monitoring Activities, Results, and Relevant Comments for FY 2009, Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands**

### **ABBREVIATIONS USED IN TABLE**

BBS – Breeding bird survey

BLM – Bureau of Land Management

CCF – 100 cubic feet

CFRP – Collaborative Forest Restoration Program

D2 – Mount Taylor Ranger District

D3 – Magdalena Ranger District

D4 – Mountainair Ranger District

D5 – Sandia Ranger District

D6 – Black Kettle and McClellan Creek

D7 – Kiowa and Rita Blanca

EIS – Environmental Impact Statement

EMIFPA – East Mountain Interagency Fire Protection Assoc.

FACTS – Forest Service Activity Tracking System

FARSITE - Fire behavior and growth simulator

FS – Forest Service

FSveg – Field Sampled Vegetation database

GIS – Geographic Information System

INFRA – Infrastructure database

NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act

NMDGF – New Mexico Dept. of Game & Fish

NMSU – New Mexico State University

NWI – National Wetlands Inventory

ODWC – Okla. Dept. of Wildlife Conservation

PAC – Protected Activity Center

PAOT- People at one time

PTSAR – Periodic Timber Sale Accomplishment Reports

RD – Ranger District

RO – Regional Office

RX – Prescribed burn

SO – Forest Supervisor’s Office

TDPW – Texas Dept. of Parks and Wildlife

TEUI – Terrestrial Ecological Unit Inventory

TIM – Timber Information Manager Software Application

USGS – U.S. Geological Survey

WUI – Wildland urban interface

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Program Area	Monitoring Accomplished	Record Location	Districts	Results	Comments
Cultural Resources	Cultural Resources listed in or eligible to the National Register of Historic Places	SO	All	48 heritage resource sites determined eligible to the National Register	
Cultural Resources	Clearance Surveys for Cultural Resources	SO	All	80 surveys, totaling 9949 acres for Section 106 clearances	
Cultural Resources	Cultural Resource Sites inspected	SO	All	22 sites inspected	Inspections were done to satisfy deferred maintenance requirements or were opportunistic inspections (non project related)
Engineering and Facilities	Miles of road construction / reconstruction	SO	D3	1 Mile	Approximately 1 mile of Forest roadway was reconstructed in order to address spot storm damage. No new roads were constructed.
Engineering and Facilities	Miles of Level 3, 4, and 5 road maintenance	SO	All	276.9 Miles	Includes roads maintained by FS Crews, FS Contractors and FS roads under County Maintenance Agreements.

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Engineering and Facilities	Miles of road obliterated	SO	N/A	No roads on the Cibola were obliterated in the past year.	Currently working with Districts on Travel Management Plans and developing an inventory of FS roads.
Fire	Monitored tree damage/mortality from wildfire based on fire intensity effects, Trigo, Big Spring, and Ojo Peak fire areas.	D2, D4, D6 forestry and fire files	D2, D4, D6	Drought conditions contributed to more intense burning (D4, D6). First order fire effects of mortality are apparent (D4).	Will continue to monitor post fire mortality for next several years. Tree planting may be needed within developed recreation sites (D6).
Fire	Monitor pre-treatment fuel loading and stand densities in the Manzano and Sandia Mountains.	SO-INFRA, D4	D4, D5		The data gathered will be analyzed in the future in FARSITE models.
Fire	Monitored for initial fire size-up parameters included topography, climate, vegetation, fire behavior, etc. on all fy 2007 wildfires.	Fire Reports-District FMO/AFMO files; SO, KCFAS database	All	Due to above-normal winter and spring precipitation, initial attacks were fewer in number and fires were smaller in size.	
Fire Prevention	Monitored fire hazard condition/defensible space of residences in wildland urban interfaces; 425, Lobo Canyon, Bluewater WUI, Jamestown WUI (D2).	RD-K drive; hardcopy prevention files	D2	Fire hazard conditions indicate a need to increase efforts to assist communities in developing Firewise program.	Despite fire prevention education efforts, there will continue to be people who do not know about those programs or information or do not choose to follow those guidelines.  FS employees could use more training in working with the public on controversial issues.

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Fire Prevention	Monitored and collected information in collaboration with Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District to identify areas at risk	District files	D5	Residents are continuing to do treatments on private land based on information that is being shared.	<p>Despite fire prevention education efforts, there will continue to be people who do not know about those programs or information or do not choose to follow those guidelines.</p> <p>Collaboration with EMIFPA for fire prevention/education outreach and interagency cross training is desirable.</p>
Fire/Fuels	Monitored during- and after-treatment conditions including smoke, weather, fire behavior, fire effects on residual vegetation and other resources.	District files burn plan file, FACTS	D2, D3, D4, D5	<p>425 prescribed burn (Rx) (223 acres). East Magdalena Rx burn (D3). Ultima Rx broadcast burn (D4). Forest Road 462 Fuelbreak. Pile burning (D5).</p> <p>Despite heavy snow on the ground, piles burned very hot. Ideal conditions for burning led to complete consumption and good smoke dispersal. Piles were very labor intensive to create. Four inch diameter and greater material was kept out of piles to aid in soil conservation. Piled pieces were cut to 3' length before piling. Thinning and piling was very labor intensive – due to location and smoke dispersal needs – proximity to ABQ. Treatment was modified along the road where boles of trees were left intact and placed along the contour to impede vehicles from going off-road in these areas. Stumps were left higher and less trees</p>	<p>There needs to be a Region 3 fuels monitoring protocol created for standardization across Forests.</p> <p>A good balance is needed between data collection, analysis and actual work accomplished on the ground.</p> <p>The person hours and funds required for these types of projects are extensive.</p>

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				<p>were cut – seems to be working – no off-road tracks (D5).</p> <p>A low intensity burn during the fall months in red slash from mechanical treatment caused very little residual tree mortality (D5).</p>	
Fire/Fuels	Monitored fuel loading by clipping and weighing of vegetation in plots	D6 Range files	D6	On going	
Forestry	Monitored compliance with silvicultural prescriptions including post-treatment basal areas, canopy cover, stand densities, snag retention, and implementation of mitigation measures in timber sale, personal use firewood programs, and CFRP thinning grants administered in FY09.	Forestry records located in individual District Project files	D2, D3, D4	Inspections indicated compliance.	Timely inspections are key to achieving desired results when implementing Designation by Description on commercial and service contracts (D2,D4). Monitoring has allowed the district to make length of season adjustments in personal-use firewood (D2,D3). Monitoring has also allowed district to make area-wide designations for personal-use firewood (D3). Desired results are also achieved through interaction and collaboration with grant partners (D2, D3, D4).
Forestry	<p>Monitored for insect or disease damage to forest stands through aerial survey (by RO) and ground sampling</p> <p>Monitored for insect activity within active timber Sales &amp; thinning projects (D2,D3,D4)</p>	Forestry files	<p>Forest-wide</p> <p>D2,D3,D4</p>	<p>Mortality continues at epidemic levels of Douglas-fir tussock moth, in white fir and Douglas-fir, and various bark beetles (D5).</p>	<p>Slash from mechanical thinning needs to be monitored more closely for insect infestations and outbreaks. (D2). Monitoring for insect activity within timber sales and thinning projects has allowed work to continue during the bark beetle season (January-June) (D2,D4).</p>

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Forestry	Monitored for hazard trees at all developed recreation sites, some undeveloped recreation sites, post-wildfire burn areas and roads	District recreation files	Forest-wide	<p>There is continued mortality, mostly white fir, in Sandia Districts developed recreation sites (D5).</p> <p>Little unauthorized off-road travel has occurred. (D5).</p>	<p>Coordinated with wildlife on the timing of hazard tree removal to reduce the impact on cavity nesters. Generally the fall is the best time of the year (D4, D3,D2)</p> <p>Bucking of fallen trees is not necessary to ensure removal; fuelwood permittees do it and carry bucked sections over 100 feet to parking areas. It is very difficult to keep up with mortality and removal of hazard trees (D5)</p>
Forestry	Monitored commercial and personal-use fuelwood areas for compliance with permits and contract requirements.	District forestry files	Forest-wide	<p>Wood theft and timber trespass are occurring. Compliance with closure orders are not always occurring.</p>	<p>Due to lack of FPOs and law enforcement, we have moved to load ticket system and NEPA designated fuelwood areas- forest-wide.</p> <p>Law enforcement is not sufficient (D2, D4,D3). Inadequate support of the Forest Protection Officer (FPO) program(D2, D4,D3). Resource damage is occurring and there is no repercussion. Law enforcement is insufficient and not addressing areas incurring resource damage(D2, D4,D3).</p>
Forestry	Acres of overstory and final removal harvest	TIM	RDs	<p>In FY 2009 we accomplished 0 acres of this harvest system.</p>	

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Forestry	Acres of Intermediate Harvest	TIM and project files	RDs	In FY 2009 we accomplished 1014 acres of this harvest system.	
Forestry	Acres in need of reforestation	FACTs	Forest-wide	Due to wildfires in 2007 and 2008 in the east mountains we identified in FY 2009 an additional 1000 acres in need.	
Forestry	Timber Stand Improvement Acres	FACTs	D2	In FY 2009 we accomplished 370 acres.	
Forestry	CCF of net sawtimber sold	PTSAR	Forest-wide	1324.3 CCF	
Forestry	Cords of fuelwood sold	PTSAR	Forest-wide	10,048 cords	
Forestry	Adequate restocking of regeneration harvest	FACTs	Forest-wide	N/A- no acres for FY 2009	

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Forestry	Stands and acres of forest lands identified and tracked in FSVeg-Common Stand Exams.	FSVeg	Forest-wide	N/A- no stand exams in FY 2009	
Land Adjustments	Monitoring private in-holdings for available acquisition.	SO	Forest-wide	Acquisition of 3 in-holdings are proceeding.	The Forest continues to solicit and take advantage of opportunities as they become available, and has developed a Forest-wide priority list.
Land Adjustments	Monitoring of right-of-way acquisition through private in holdings.	SO	Forest-wide	Acquisition of 1 ROW is currently occurring.	Through travel management analysis, ROW needs are being identified and opportunities explored.
Minerals	Monitoring for compliance with Plans of Operations	SO	D2, D3	Vegetation standards for reclamation were met (D3)	Significant uranium exploration interest (D2).
Minerals	Monitoring well pad construction for compliance with permit and condition approval; environmental effects during construction phase, inspections of well sites to ensure compliance with COA's and permit.	D6	D6	All inspected are in compliance.	Compliance inspections are reduced due to limited personnel.
Minerals	Monitoring mineral withdrawals at comm. sites, developed recreation facilities and administrative sites for renewals.	SO	Forest wide	Current withdrawals are being reviewed and appropriate action taken.	The Forest is working with a BLM contractor to complete review and backlog by spring of 2010.

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Range	Monitored allotments and range structural improvements. Methods included field inspection (visual) photo, stubble height.	District files Recorded in INFRA	D2, D3, D4, D6, D7	<p>29 allotments inspected for annual operating instructions (AOI). 29 grazing permits administered to standard (D2).</p> <p>35 allotments monitored, 35 in AOI compliance. Frequency monitoring completed on 6 allotments (D3).</p> <p>18 allotments monitored, 18 in AOI compliance (D4).</p> <p>96 allotments monitored for AOI compliance, all in compliance (D6).</p> <p>260 units monitored for AOI compliance, all in compliance. Trend studies done with frequency transects on Union County units. 66 Allotment management plans (AMPs) signed, covering 66,283 ac. (D7).</p>	Conditions noted and structural maintenance needs discussed with permittees (D2). Improvements constructed as to specifications (D3).
Range	Permitted Use on D2, D3, D4.	District	D2, D3, D4	<p>D2 41162 AUMs  D3 42253 AUMs  D4 33710 AUMs</p>	
Range	Grazing Capacity and Range Condition on D2, D3, D4	District files	D-3	Completed NEPA on 8 allotments on D3. AMPs prepared on allotments covering 103,530 ac.	

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<p>Recreation</p>	<p>Miles of trail construction/reconstruction and maintenance (other than wilderness).</p>	<p>INFRA, District Offices and SO</p>	<p>D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7.</p>	<p>The Southwest Conservation Corps constructed the final 6 miles of the Continental Divide Trail to Forest Service specifications (D2).</p> <p>7 miles of trail maintenance on the Apache Kid Trail monitored. The Southwest Conservation Corps cleared down trees from the Coffee Pot Burn on the Apache Kid Trail according to Forest Service specifications (D3).</p> <p>19 miles of trail maintenance (Post Fire Rehab) monitored. The Southwest Conservation Corps repaired damage caused by post fire erosion according to Forest Service specifications (D4).</p> <p>2 Miles of trail maintenance and 1 mile of new trail construction monitored. The Southwest Conservation Corps repaired damage caused by erosion on the La Luz Trail. The Sandia Ranger District Trail Crew built 1 mile of new trail in the Cedro area (D5).</p> <p>1 mile of new trail construction (Washita Battle Ground Interruptive Trail). Contractor constructed a concrete interpretive trail for the</p>	<p>This construction completed the 39 mile portion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail through the Mt. Taylor Ranger District (D2).</p> <p>The Apache Kid was impassable for over 5 years. The trail has now been cleared and is being using by recreationists (D3).</p> <p>After the Oso Ridge, Trigo, and Big Spring Fires, the trails on the Mountainair District suffered significant damage from erosion. The crews repaired the erosion and the trails are now open to the public (D4).</p> <p>Portions of the La Luz Trail were considered to be dangerous due to trail erosion. The erosion was repaired using stabilization techniques using large boulders. The public was extremely appreciative for the repair work (D5).</p> <p>The trail is an excellent education tool for the Black Kettle Ranger District (D6).</p>
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				<p>Washita Battle Field (D6).</p> <p>.25 miles of trail constructed for the Mills Ranch House. Contractor completed this trail during the Mills Canyon Campground construction (D7).</p>	<p>Visitors to Mills Canyon now have a designated path to the Mills Ranch House (D7).</p>
Recreation	Developed site use, public and private sector	District files, RO, WO	D2, D4, D5, D7	<p>Mills Canyon Campground construction was finished FY 2009 and has increased the use of the site (D7).</p> <p>Monitored Collection and Expenditure of Recreation Fees and reported through the National Reporting System to Congress (D2, D4, D5).</p> <p>Monitored use figures from Sandia Tram and Ski areas (D5) and reported through National Report System to Congress.</p>	<p>The Mills Canyon Area facilities were closed during construction (D7).</p> <p>These fees represent the total fees collected at our only 2 open fee sites on the district. Fees at these sites are \$7 per site for overnight use. There are no fees charged for day use (D4).</p> <p>Use is tracked for billing and reporting purposes. Data will be used in reviewing future Master Development Plans (D5).</p>
Recreation	Condition of developed sites in the public sector.	INFRA and Recreation Office SO, TRACS Folder SO, Zone Silviculturist, Contracting	D3,D4, D5 ,D6, D7	<p>D3, D4,D5, D6 and D7 surveyed 20% of their recreation facilities. These surveys are completed in 20% increments annually. Conditions of the recreation facilities on D3, D4, D5, D6 are good but continue to decline due to age and vandalism. Facilities on D7 are in above average condition.</p>	<p>D5 hazard trees are becoming an issue along trails. An IDIQ contract was issued, and certified volunteer sawyers were used to remove hazard trees. Hazard trees in developed sites will be an ongoing issue in the foreseeable future (D5).</p> <p>Additional deferred maintenance needs exist. The Forest need to look for creative</p>

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		Office		<p>TRACS Survey on the Shipman Trail D3 and Kiwanis Cabin Snow Trail, Casa Loma Trail, Hawkwatch Trail D5. Results show that trail conditions throughout the forest are in need of maintenance. Also, distances are not accurate in INFRA.</p> <p>Monitored critical deferred maintenance. Conducted condition surveys at Doc Long, Cienega, Nine-mile, Dry Camp, Balsam Glade, 10K, Canyon Estates and Ellis. Contracts were issued via engineering to address portions of deferred maintenance including: toilet roof replacement at Doc Long PG, toilet fascia work at Cedro; rock wall work at Sandia Crest</p>	ways to solve or address. The District uses INFRA to prioritize needs and develop plans to address (D5).
Soil & Water	Watershed improvement acres.	All Districts Offices	All Districts	Watershed condition improved on 1100 acres.	
Soil & Water	Riparian acres treated to bring to satisfactory condition.	D4 District Office Work Records	D4	Restoration work in relation to fires on Mountainair.	

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Soil & Water	Best Management Practices (BMPs) – Monitor projects to determine implementation and suitability of BMP recommendations.	SO	D4, D5	Additional practices identified to improve soil condition during vegetative treatments	Addressing lack of woody material in streams. Utilizing TEU data to protect soil during fuelwood harvest.
Soil & Water	Successful closing and obliteration of temp roads and trails.	SO Travel Mgmt. Records	All	High risk roads identified. Some NEPA completed.	
Special Use Permits - Lands	Monitoring for compliance with permit terms and conditions, including environmental effects, during special use permit administration (includes land special use permits).	SO	Forest wide		Permits now being issued for longer term to reduce burden of permit issuance. Electronic sites need more technical inspection. On-site inspections are reduced due to lack of personnel at District level. Monitoring for NEPA compliance with permit reissuance.
Special Use Permit – Lands	Monitoring pipelines, power lines, seismic and telephone special use permits for compliance with terms and conditions, environmental effects during special use permit administration.	SO	Forest wide	Monitoring shows that potential violations of permit conditions are occurring.	
Special Use Leases – Lands	Monitoring of availability of electronic site acres.	SO	D2, D3, D4, D5, D6	There are approx. 310 acres designated as communication sites.	These sites will accommodate either high or low power use, with one being mixed use. They are identified for commercial use or stipulated to accommodate governmental use only. (federal agencies or military).

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Visual Quality		n/a		No monitoring completed.	Travel Management priority precluded monitoring.
Wildlife	Acres of browse vegetation treated to improve availability and productivity	District Offices	D2, D3, D4, D6	Acres D2=643; D3= 7536; D4=72; D6=7200;	D4- Photo point monitoring started on Tajique Meadow restoration and Tajique thinning of past burn.  D6-Post treatment monitoring of the Black Kettle Rx burns and discing show significant increases in early successional plant species that are used by wildlife species. Monitoring of areas where eastern red cedar was removed showed increases of native brush and tree species.
Wildlife	Monitored water developments.	District project or work records	All	Number of developments: D2=6; D3=33 (8 requiring major maintenance); D4=22 (1 new installation, 2 reconstruction); D5=6; D6=15; D7=2.	Fiberglass catchments installed in the 1980's and 90's have deteriorated due to weather damage (primarily sun damage). Fiberglass catchments will be systematically replaced as funding allows or they will be decommissioned. Fences surrounding wildlife waters need annual inspection to ensure condition prevents livestock entry.
Wildlife	Monitored number of quality snags per acre	Triannual Field review of forest product sale areas	All	Not monitored this period.	

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Wildlife	Monitored number of roost groups	Triannual Field review of forest product sale areas	All	Not monitored this period.	
Wildlife	Monitored for goshawk occupancy and reproductive success.	District	D2, D3, D4, D5	D2=15 territories D3=0 territories D4=5 territories D5=3 territories	<p>D2-Three territories of 15 were active with only two young fledged. At Ojo Bonito, the Forest will consider redelineating Little Water Canyon PFA to include Bonito, or else draw new PFA for Bonito. The Forest will determine the need for a new PFA (Mt. Sedgewick) along upper FR.504 near Section 21/22 boundary due to sightings of young and adults late in the nesting season.</p> <p>D3- The Forest will determine occupancy at territories in 2010, and will determine the need for a PFA in Datil based on repeated sightings of a goshawk there.</p> <p>D4-One new territory was discovered and a PFA was established. Three of five territories fledged 2 young each. The Anderson territory moved onto private land just across the FS boundary. The territory fledged 2 young.</p> <p>D5- A new territory was discovered at David Canyon and a PFA established. Two of three territories fledged 5 young.</p>

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Wildlife	Monitored for reproductive success and occupancy of threatened and endangered animals.	District	D2, D3,D4, D5	<p>Southwestern willow flycatcher territories monitored</p> <p>D2=1; None detected. D4=1 (potential habitat); None detected.</p> <p>MSO territories monitored: D2=17 D3=12</p> <p>D5-About 1200 acres were inventoried by protocol survey for MSO for the Hondo/Sulphur Fuels Reduction Project. None detected.</p> <p>East Magdalena monitoring after fire shows increase in herbaceous plant cover and improvement in condition class of desirable browse plants.</p>	<p>D2-Monitoring visit to Bluewater in FY 2009. As required by protocol, three visits were made to lower Bluewater from FR 178 to Andrew’s cabin but no SWWF were detected. Visits occurred on 5-22, 6-18 and 7-3; in May the coyote willow was still brown and dormant-looking, but by mid June they were budding out and finally reached full development by early July. Only a single brown-headed cowbird was observed on 6-18 where the cattle lane meets the stream. The riparian enclosure fence was maintained by District personnel.</p> <p>D4-Monitoring visit to Tajiue in FY 2009: No SWWF were detected at or near Sun Valley on 6-11-09.</p> <p>D4-no MSO monitoring occurred.</p>
Wildlife	Monitored Aplomado falcon prey species and population trend (Two one mile BBS transects conducted annually by volunteers).	District	D3		D3-The District continues to establish baseline for prey species abundance and determines absence of Aplomado falcons in suitable habitat on three grazing allotments.
Wildlife	Monitored Peregrine Falcon Eyrie occupancy and nest success (Random sample conducted by NMDGF contractors).	NMDGF, Districts	D2, D3,D4, D5	11 of 17 sites were monitored. 2 had no occupancy, 2 had a single adult, 1 had a pair but not reproduction, 6 had 16 nestlings, at least 4 of which did not fledge.	<p>Occupancy is increasing on the Cibola slightly, but productivity is still suppressed.</p> <p>Closure order to protect this species on D5 was implemented.</p>

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					<p>Take at peregrine sites for falconry purposes was not permitted by NMDGF on the Cibola this year.</p> <p>Rock climbing affecting eyries is becoming more apparent at 2 sites on D3.</p>
Wildlife	Ferruginous Hawk Nest Monitoring – nest occupancy	SO	D7	5 NM sites were monitored in FY 2009, but OK and TX sites were not monitored.	<p>Texas and Oklahoma sites were not monitored in FY 2009. Five territories in the Roy area were monitored with 10 young viewed in the nest, possibly fledging.</p> <p>Timing: The best time to monitor the platforms is from about June 18 to June 25 because the young are close to fledging then, are readily visible and easy to count. Visits to the platforms in April are not particularly useful and may be detrimental to birds known for their propensity to abandon their clutch when disturbed early in the breeding season.</p> <p>On average ferruginous hawk egg incubation starts around April 18, hatching about May 11 and the young fledge about June 26.</p>
Wildlife	Burrowing Owl occupancy of black-tailed prairie dog colonies		D7	As part of a region-wide study, researchers from NMSU located and monitored 356 nests across 4 study areas, which is the largest standardized monitoring effort for burrowing owls. Data indicated higher nest failure in the south (44%	Long term study conducted by NMSU.

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				and 30% for Kiowa-Rita Blanca and Comanche, respectively) than north (9 and 14% for Pawnee and Buffalo Gap, respectively), and productivity was significantly higher at the two northern sites. Research reports that burrowing owls are more numerous and dense on prairie dog colonies in southern compared to northern sites.	
Wildlife	Black-tailed prairie dog monitoring	D7, SO Wildlife Files	D7	Fifty-eight active colonies on the KRB NG in FY 2009, encompassing 1833 acres. Overall decrease in acreage by 9.5% since 2006, last monitoring effort.	Monitoring conducted in association with Kansas State University and USGS Biological Resources Division.
Wildlife	Zuni bluehead sucker monitoring	D2, SO Wildlife Files		Population monitoring completed at 10 sites in historical habitat. Persistence of ZBS confirmed in the Aqua Remora, Tampico Springs, Tampico Draw and Rio Nutria.	Habitat and population Monitoring conducted by NMDGF is documented with an annual report.  Conservation actions for ZBS included removal of nonnative green sunfish from the Aqua Remora, collection of larval and adult ZBS for captive rearing investigations, and research into conservation genetics. Habitat conservation focused on acquisition of headwater habitat. Public information and outreach efforts included preparation of a segment for inclusion in the NM Wildlife TV program.

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Wildlife	Threatened and Endangered / sensitive plants - Zuni fleabane	District Files	D2	Inventoried areas for uranium exploration activities on D2. No new populations were discovered.	
Wildlife	Monitored occurrence and population trend of migratory and resident birds on about 140 miles of transects to determine Habitat Trends-Habitat Diversity.	Districts	D2=2 two mile routes; D3=2 two mile routes; D4= 2 one mile routes; D5=1 one mile route; D6= 6 one mile route; D7= 3 one or two mile routes.	<p>Management Indicator Species (MIS):</p> <p>Juniper titmouse - statewide population trend down, Cibola habitat trend stable.</p> <p>Pygmy nuthatch- statewide population trend up, Cibola habitat trend up.</p> <p>Hairy woodpecker-statewide population trend slightly up, Cibola habitat trend stable.</p> <p>Red-breasted nuthatch-statewide population trend slightly up, habitat trend stable.</p> <p>Red-naped sapsucker- statewide population trend up, habitat trend declining due to loss of aspen throughout the SW.</p> <p>House wren- statewide population trend down, Cibola habitat trend stable to improving.</p>	<p>USGS Breeding Bird Survey has accumulated enough data during the last forty years to delineate state level population trends.</p> <p>Population trends on 1 and 2 mile Cibola routes can be used to compare trends at the state and National level.</p> <p>Juniper titmouse is especially well suited to be an Indicator Species because it is so sedentary and disinclined to wander, even in winter. Species prefers juniper dominated P/J woodlands.</p> <p>Pygmy nuthatch is often seen in flocks, causing considerable variance from year to year, thus distorting the trend. The long term habitat trend is positive because considerable restoration is planned for ponderosa habitat, i.e., it is being thinned and burned, allowing for the growth of fewer, but larger, healthier trees.</p> <p>While generally hairy woodpecker seems to be undercounted, sometimes the opposite is true, when the bird appears in clusters, as after a forest fire when trees</p>

					<p>often become infested with bugs and grubs. Such fluctuations tend to throw off the trend estimates, as can be seen in Claunch and Claunch2 BBS where the trend oscillates wildly between extremes.</p> <p>Red-breasted nuthatch is a nomad resident occurring abundantly one year and perhaps not at all the next, a phenomenon mostly linked to the availability of food supplies, i.e., a good cone crop.</p> <p>Red-naped sapsucker is difficult to detect, but has high site fidelity so can indicate habitat quality over the long-term in areas where it is known to occur.</p> <p>House wren is an appropriate indicator species for lower elevation riparian habitat.</p> <p>USGS Breeding Bird Survey = These 24.5-mile, randomly-selected surveys are conducted according to protocol. They begin one half hour before sunrise, with stops every half mile. At each of the 50 STOPS, birds seen and heard, are counted for three minutes. Conducted annually.</p> <p>These, mostly habitat-specific, fine-filter surveys are generally from one mile to two miles in length and either have six or</p>
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					eleven points, spaced .2 miles apart. Birds are counted for ten minutes at each point. Transects are rotated at 1-5 yr. intervals.
Wildlife	<p>Monitored Game - Management Indicator Species</p> <p>Merriam's Turkey</p> <p>Rocky Mountain Elk</p> <p>Mule Deer</p> <p>Black Bear</p> <p>Rio Grande Turkey</p>	NMDGF, ODWC, TDPW	All	<p>Monitoring in conjunction with NMDGF on D3 for black bear, mule deer, elk. Shows continuing upward trend in populations. Habitat trend for mule deer is declining in all but PJ and mountain shrub habitats, as evidenced by declining observations of mule deer in all other habitat types.</p> <p>Rio Grande turkey population is slowly increasing, all available habitat has high numbers at this time.</p>	Unknown if mule deer trend is due to actual decline in habitat quality or competition with elk in these habitats on D3. Population trend data is not consistent from year to year because NM units 8, 14 and 38 are low priority monitoring units for NMDGF.
Wildlife	<p>Monitored trends of migrating raptor populations on the Sandia and Manzano Mountains.</p> <p>Monitored Fall Passerine bird species by trapping at Capilla Peak.</p>	Districts	D4, D5	<p>Spring 09- Raptor migration-Passage rate trends Among 17 species seen in most years, adjusted passage rates were significantly above average only for Peregrine Falcons, whereas passage rates were significantly below average for 8 of the 16 remaining species. Similar to the past two seasons, the overall combined-species median passage date of 4 April was a marginally significant two days earlier than average Fall 08—significantly higher proportion of buteos (very high abundance of</p>	

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				Swainson’s hawks). Below average proportion of falcons, accipiters, vultures. Migration-passage rate trends significantly above average for osprey, northern goshawk, broad-winged hawk, bald eagle and merlin. Passage rates significantly below average for sharp-shinned hawk, red-tailed hawk, ferruginous hawk, rough-legged hawk, kestrel and prairie falcon. The 2008 combined-species median passage rate of 25 September nearly matched the 1985–2007 average of 26 September.	
Wildlife	Monitored Habitat Stamp Number of projects, effectiveness and wildlife use.	Districts	All	Monitored 20 projects	Provides data that is helpful in determining maintenance needs.