Forest Plan

Monitoring and Evaluation Report

Lincoln National Forest

Fiscal Year 2011

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

Southwestern Region



Forest Supervisor's Certification

I certify the Lincoln National Forest Plan (Forest Plan) as amended is sufficient to guide management of the Forest over the next year.

05/07/2012

Robert G. Trujillo
Forest Supervisor

Date

Executive Summary

Forest monitoring and evaluation are designed to focus attention and resources on evaluation of on-the-ground management practices and Forest Plan implementation. In addition, monitoring and evaluation provide an overview of resource conditions and trends as they relate to indicators and criteria for sustainability, with specific attention to the effects of management on ecological system structure and function.

The Executive Summary section provides an overview of events that helped to shape Fiscal Year 2011 and summarizes some of the lessons learned from the monitoring activities found in the table on pages 9-26. These events and lessons learned are anticipated to be relevant to the future management of the Lincoln National Forest (LNF).

Fiscal Year 2011—Overview

In April of 2011, Stage II Fire Restrictions were implemented on the LNF and then approximately one month following in May 2011 a complete closure of the forest was implemented due to increased fire danger on public lands in Southeastern New Mexico. While campfire and smoking restrictions were effective in terms of minimizing the number of fires, a risk of any human-caused fires could not be afforded. The full closure order was needed to address potential risks to communities and natural resources as well as potential difficulties evacuating recreationist from remote areas should a wildfire start. Personnel continued to monitor fire danger indices to ensure that management decisions reflected on-the-ground needs to protect communities.

Forest Service Law Enforcement and staff patrolled the forest roads and trails. Signs were placed along highways and flyers were posted throughout the communities to remind the public that the LNF was closed. The use of all campgrounds, day use picnic areas, and trails were closed. All National Forest System Roads were closed, but all interstates, state and county roads through the LNF remained open. Property owners and their guests continued to have access to their private lands within the Forest. The Lincoln was reopened near the end of July 2011 with Stage II Fire Restrictions and fully opened in the middle of August 2011 when sufficient precipitation was received to adequately reduce the extremely dry conditions and reduce the risk of wildfire to a manageable level.

The 2011 fire season was arguably the most active fire season on record for the LNF due to unusually high winds, and exceptional drought combined with unfortunate ignition sources. The Smokey Bear Ranger District normally experiences approximately six fires per year and in 2011 there were seventeen fires. The White Fire was the largest fire this past season and consumed most of its 10,361 acres in the first four hours. The Sacramento Ranger District also had its share of fire with the Mayhill Fire starting southwest of Mayhill, NM and the Little Lewis Fire starting 2 miles south of Sacramento, NM. The Guadalupe Ranger District experienced the highest workload of fire activity during the 2011 fire season with fourteen fires burning 46,043 acres, about sixteen percent of the district. The first of these fires started on Easter Day and grew to 53,343 acres (22,702 acres burned on the Guadalupe Ranger District), most of which occurred in one operational period.

Intense fire activity throughout the Forest prompted the need to implement treatments and activities to lessen the impacts of monsoonal rainfall on homes, businesses and property due to the various fires. The LNF collaborated by providing data and analysis of burn severity which assisted our partners in acquiring and placing cement jersey barriers to reduce the effects of water flow and runoff to private property, as well as providing sand bags and technical assistance to help landowners and residents protect their own property. The LNF began aerially and manually applying grass seed on moderately and severely burned Federal lands within the fire area. A covering of straw mulch was then spread over seeded areas to protect the seeds, retain moisture and encourage germination. This combination of grass seed and straw mulch has proven to be very successful in re-establishing ground cover, stabilizing the soil, slowing runoff and reducing erosion. Other treatments included restoring and cleaning earthen tanks to hold runoff, installing check dams and erosion control structures, felling hazard trees, restoring Forest roads, and protecting cultural heritage sites. Although these activities were exclusively on LNF lands they are intended and expected to positively influence adjacent private and government-owned lands.

In addition to a high amount of fire activity, the LNF was able to complete other projects planned for FY2011 including the completion and opening of the Mexican Canyon Trestle, restoring the Carissa Lookout Complex for a future publicly available rental, and collaboration and implementation of cave management strategies.

Following completed stabilization of the Mexican Canyon Trestle bents in 2010, the Trestle Vista construction began in April 2011. As part of this work, Highway 82 was moved north, making more space for safe parking. Also, a sidewalk with interpretive signs and a viewing platform with benches were installed. The highway relocation obliterated the existing trailhead and parking for the popular OSHA Trail. The Trestle Vista was officially open to the public in December 2011. Due to the help from volunteers, partners, and many others including funding from ARRA this trestle was restored and reconstructed to withstand many more years within the Sacramento Ranger District and the Village of Cloudcroft.

The LNF is aiming to be the first forest in New Mexico to offer a cabin rental program. The program is very popular in other states including Arizona. Benefits of the program include providing funding for the maintenance of unused and underused buildings to slow down their deterioration, while introducing visitors to unique areas of the LNF and different types of

experiences other than traditional camping. Restoration of the Carissa Lookout complex which consists of a lookout, cabin, shed, and restroom began in FY2011. The Carissa Lookout Complex is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and had an Aermo or MC-39 lookout tower and a cabin both built in 1935 by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The lookout complex retains much of the character that it had when it was built in the 1930's. Upon completion of the restoration work, the cabin will be posted on the National Recreation Service Website where the general public will be able to reserve and rent the sites for their personal use and enjoyment.

Collaboration and cave management strategies were further outlined and implemented in FY2011. The LNF Cave Management Program Office is located in Carlsbad, NM where headquarters for the National Park Service (NPS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are also located. This makes collaboration with our Federal partners easier. Another Carlsbad based partner is the National Cave and Karst Institute (NCKRI). With the help of these partners, the LNF successfully offered a class for Acoustic Bat Survey and Management, coordinated to help prevent White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) spread by implementing the WNS Interagency Response Plan, and worked with volunteers including the Southwest Region of the National Speleological Society (NSS) and the Fort Stanton Cave Study Project (FSCSP) to monitor, evaluate, and map back country caves that have been "lost" in the rugged mountain country. These collaborations and cave management strategies ensure that the LNF has needed scientific data to make good management decisions about its cave resources.

Each fiscal year the Forest commits money to local small-business development. In Fiscal Year 2011, the Lincoln National Forest committed $168,910 through thinning contracts on 2,575 acres contributing to local, small businesses.

The Forest also collected $110,683 in fees related to forest products and services delivered through other Forest Service programs. Below is a breakdown of the fees collected in FY 2011.

Forest Products and Services	Revenues
Recreation Special Uses	$14, 257
Recreation User Fees	$39,900
Minerals	$390
Land Use	$36,411
Wood Products (Timber & Salvage Sales)	$16,513
Grazing	$3,212
TOTAL	**$110,683**

Fiscal Year 2011--Findings/Lessons Learned

Below are some of the lessons learned from the monitoring and evaluation of on-the-ground management practices that are anticipated to be relevant to the future management of the LNF.

- The LNF continued to survey the Endangered Sacramento prickly poppy (*Argemone pinnatisecta*) in Alamo, Caballero and Fresnal Canyons. As a result of heightened interest in the apparent declining status of this plant, the LNF embarked on developing several new initiatives for its conservation, including monitoring livestock grazing patterns within the Alamo Canyon system, and the establishment of three critical areas to observe and monitor livestock/poppy interactions.

- On January 27, 2011 a first annual inventory and monitoring meeting took place at the Supervisor's Office in Alamogordo, NM. This meeting was to identify and note all inventory and monitoring needs including protocols, equipment, potential contracts, and database management. This will be an ongoing effort to identify and fill in any gaps to help prepare the Lincoln for plan revision anticipated for FY2014.

- If drought conditions persist, tree stress and mortality will likely increase in 2012. While proper thinning treatments have been shown to help reduce stress on trees and increase their ability to resist insects and disease, land managers continue to explore ways to minimize the impact of this increase in insect infestation and will continue to coordinate with private, local, state, federal and tribal entities to respond to the increase in tree decline.

- A formal Wildlife/Botany Report for the Guadalupe Ranger District was completed for the 2011 fiscal year. This report documented past monitoring that has been performed within the district and made the following recommendations for monitoring in the future.
    - Perform surveys of the peregrine falcons on the district to determine occupancy, population, location and suitable habitat
    - Perform comprehensive bat surveys within caves to determine type of presence and purpose and location of use
    - Survey bats for white nose syndrome
    - Perform surveys on current fish species on the district
    - Test Kuenzler cactus response to fire comparing burned and non-burned areas
    - Conduct formal owl surveys in territories and determine reproduction
    - Survey owl populations after fire
    - Survey golden eagles and compare them to the introduction of wind farms
    - Wild turkey population monitoring

Fiscal Year 2011--Changes/Changes Needing Additional Consideration

Prior to and during the Forest Plan Revision process, changes that are relevant to the future management of the Lincoln National Forest will be considered. Some of the 2011 Fiscal Year changes and those changes needing additional consideration during the Revision process are identified below.

- Monitoring activities are being tied to the progress made on the LNF Climate Change Scorecard. Multiple objectives delineated in the scorecard such as defining resource

vulnerability, adaptation activities, and associated integrated monitoring will be further considered in the future management of the LNF.

- Hazardous fuels treatment objectives may be better represented when utilized to create defensible space, and especially when combined with strategic placement of treatments which can support future suppression operations.

- Treatment effectiveness would be better served to include restoration principles which are specific to the Lincoln as well as soil, hydrological, and habitat objectives.

- Forest level restoration principles and guidelines can assist in guiding treatment prescriptions. It is important that guidelines are measurable and able to demonstrate treatment effectiveness.

Forest Plan Amendments and Issues Needing Further Analysis

The Forest Plan and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) were published in 1986. Since implementation of the Plan, fifteen amendments and six Correction Notices have been completed. The Amendment Table below displays each amendment, the decision date and a brief amendment summary followed by the Correction Notice Table.

Amendment Table

Amendment Number	Decision Date	Amendment Description
Amendment #1	May 1987	To clarify the operational procedures for identifying those roads and trails that are to be part of the transportation system and that will be open or closed to motorized vehicles.
Amendment #2	September 1988	To delete all references to base-in-exchange lands.
Amendment #3	September 1988	To change the guidelines for management of the Sacramento Mountain salamander.
Amendment #4	September 1988	To correct typographic errors and minor mistakes not carried over from the proposed plan.
Amendment #5	September 1990	To adjust to the Title 2 of the Sikes Act funding and habitat improvement opportunity.
Amendment #6	April 1991	To amend the limit of flexibility needed to accomplish the objectives for the Carrizo Integrated Resource Area.
Amendment #7	April 1991	To update the Forest's list of recreation and trails projects.
Amendment #8	September 1995	To reduce the tentatively suited timber base in Management Area 2D by three acres in order to construct the Sunspot Visitor Center; and to clarify the boundary of the Haynes Canyon Research Natural Area.
Amendment #9	June 1996	To include the latest information on habitat needs for the Mexican spotted owl and northern goshawk with clear standards and guidelines providing preliminary direction for site-specific project design.
Amendment #10	December 2002	To incorporate scientific research into the design of treatments in

Amendment Number	Decision Date	Amendment Description
		Mexican spotted owl (MSO) habitat so data and knowledge gained from treatment activities can be applied to management of future watershed projects with similar MSO habitat.
Amendment #11	September 2002	To protect eligible rivers (river areas) for their outstandingly remarkable values, and preserve their classification pending determination of their suitability for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System.
Amendment #12	June 2005	To manage vegetation and fuels reduction in the 16 Springs project area within Mexican spotted owl habitat.
Amendment #13	May 2007	To allow for the reissuance of recreation residence special-use permits to the same people holding the current permits for the 18 sites at the Pine Lodge Summer Home tract and 23 sites in the Eagle Creek Summer Home tract.
Amendment #14	August 2007 (Withdrawn 2/2008)	To meet current Federal wildland fire management policy, direction, and terminology. Intended to revise current decision-making criteria for wildland fire use.
Amendment #15	June 2008	To modify forest characteristics to minimize the chance of large-scale crown fire within the wildland-urban interface (Perk Grindstone) around the Village of Ruidoso.
Amendment # 16	September 2009	To meet changes in Federal wildland fire management policy, direction, and terminology. Intended to revise current decision-making criteria for Unplanned Ignition for Resource Benefit.

Correction Notice Table

Amendment Number	Decision Date	Amendment Description
Correction Notice #1	June 1992	Replacement Page 35 referencing predator control measures.
Correction Notice #2	July 1992	Replacement Page 64 referencing range condition, water rights applications, and limited surface-use stipulations in oil and gas leases.
Correction Notice #3	August 1995	Replacement Page 102 referencing the Haynes Canyon RNA Management Area.
Correction Notice #4	June 1996	Removed Tables 2-8, Table 10 and 11on pages 14-16 and pages 20-25. Replaced Table 9 on pages 17-19. Replacement Pages 93, 101, 105-106, 109, 130-131, 133, 137, 139, 142, 145, and 148 reflecting the Record of Decision (ROD) changes deleting the Timber harvest Tables on each page.
Correction Notice #5	August 2007 (Withdrawn 2/2008)	Replacement Pages 31, 38, 41, 80, 83, 94, 101, 110, 131, 134, and 137 referencing fire terminology consistent with several National interagency efforts.
Correction Notice #6	December 2008	Replacement Pages 30 and 30A referencing changes to motor vehicle use and the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM)

Plan amendments demonstrate the shifting trends occurring on the Lincoln National Forest and across the Southwest. For example, demographics today highlight an older-age population, and resource managers are considering programs that are service and amenity oriented to help address this segment of forest users. Recreation-visitor surveys, socio-economic assessments, and values, attitudes and belief's assessments refine and address shifting trends. Plan amendments will be used to keep the existing Forest Plan current until the Forest Plan Revision process occurs.

The future Forest Plan Revision process will be built upon foundational concepts. These include: 1) managing listed threatened and endangered plants and animals; 2) increasing knowledge of the function, processes, and interrelationships of ecosystems; and, 3) recognizing thresholds beyond which ecosystems may no longer be sustainable. Some of the issues needing further analysis during the Forest Plan Revision process are:

- Determining what uses will be allowed while working to protect resources
- Evaluating needed rights-of-way
- Balancing how to manage and implement the new Transportation Management Rule while controlling resource damage
- Balancing public-land use, land exchanges, and special uses
- Monitoring an even and sustainable flow of wood products
- Increasing the availability and utilization of small-diameter wood products from the Forest
- Managing recreation opportunities
- Protecting heritage resources
- Managing elk and livestock forage competition on grazing allotments
- Meeting water-yield, water-quality, and water-use standards on the Forest
- Managing the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) to reduce catastrophic fire risk
- Re-introducing native wildlife species to the Forest
- Maintaining viable populations of threatened and endangered species

Monitoring Activities

Monitoring and evaluation provide the Forest Supervisor and land managers information and data to ensure responsive and efficient management of the Lincoln National Forest. There are two components to the Lincoln National Forest monitoring and evaluation program--formal and informal. Formal monitoring and evaluation are conducted in accordance with monitoring plans specifically developed for the project or program level. Both formal and informal monitoring and evaluation occur during administrative and operational activity field visits.

Acronyms Used

EA – Environmental Assessment
FACTS – Forest Activity Tracking System database
FSVEG – Forest Vegetation database
GIS – Geographic Information System

GPS – Global Positioning System (a survey type/technique)
IMPROVE – Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments database
INFRA –Infrastructure database
LNF – Lincoln National Forest
MIS-Management Indicator Species
MSO – Mexican spotted owl
MVUM – Motorized-Vehicle-Use Map
NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act
NMED-New Mexico Environment Department
NMSU – New Mexico State University
NRIS – Natural Resource Information System
PHA- Priority Heritage Asset
RD – Ranger District
ROW – Rights-of-Way
TE&S – Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive

Table of Monitoring Activities, Findings and/or Lessons Learned for FY 2011

RESOURCE	MONITORING ACCOMPLISHED	RECORD LOCATION	DISTRICT	FINDINGS OR LESSONS LEARNED
Air	Air quality over the White Mountain Wilderness Class I air shed.	IMPROVE	Smokey Bear	No degradation findings reported.
Caves	Cave condition and restoration	Recreation files	Guadalupe	Gating is discouraging illegal entry. All locks were replaced in FY2011. Monitoring of caves for bat hibernacula and symptoms of WNS were continued in FY2011. Significant bat caves were identified and temporarily closed. New bat hibernacula were found. Restoration projects were completed in one cave and two projects made significant achievements toward completion

RESOURCE	MONITORING ACCOMPLISHED	RECORD LOCATION	DISTRICT	FINDINGS OR LESSONS LEARNED
				in FY2012. Previous restoration sites were monitored and no damage or new sites were discovered.
Caves	Collaboration and training	Recreation files	Guadalupe	This past year the National Cave and Karst Research Institute (NCKRI) supported training programs, including a bat acoustical survey and management, bat identification and capture, and WNS decontamination and identification training offered by the LNF by donating the use of their new facility. Presenters from the USDA Forest Service, Bat Conservation Inc., and NCKRI created a partnership for the workshop. Attendees included employees from the NPS, BLM, USDA FS, and nearly 20 volunteers.
Caves	Cave resource protection	Recreation files	Guadalupe	Cave gates offer resource protection through controlled access. All cave gates were monitored in FY2011 with no breaches and no emergency repairs needed. Flagged routes in caves offer conservation by keeping impact to established areas. All routes in caves were inspected and the flagging tape that outlines the routes was maintained in FY2011. The process that controls the keys to the cave gates was updated and no keys were lost in FY2011. A new Trip Leader Program was started in FY2011 and will be completed by the end of FY2012. This Trip Leader Program will offer strong resource protection by empowering the leaders to enforce conservation rules.
Facilities	Routine Maintenance, Deferred Maintenance and Real Property	Engineering files and field inspections and I-web	Forestwide	18 Forest buildings were inspected in FY11 in conjunction with deferred maintenance and real property inspections.
Facilities	Communication Site Audits	Realty Files and I-web	Forestwide	Three sites were audited in FY11. As a result of these audits, fees and billing were adjusted to reflect changes in use, site and facility clean-up were addressed including the removal of unused equipment, and consolidation opportunities of users was identified.
Heritage Resources	Mexican Canyon Trestle	Recreation/Heritage files	Sacramento	Phase II of the Trestle stabilization was completed in FY 2011. The vista parking lot and viewing area is to be completed in FY2012.
Heritage Resources	General Monitoring of Archaeological Sites	GIS and Heritage files	Forestwide	Site condition monitoring was completed and there were no major issues found. Monitoring of Fresnal Shelter was completed in 2011.

RESOURCE	MONITORING ACCOMPLISHED	RECORD LOCATION	DISTRICT	FINDINGS OR LESSONS LEARNED
Heritage Resources	Project Quality Assurance Monitoring	GIS and Heritage files	Forestwide	D3 communication site monitoring was completed in 2011 and major issues were identified. Mitigation is needed. D3 communication site mitigation is planned for FY2012 Monitoring was performed at the Great Western Mine Rehabilitation in 2011.
Insect and Disease	Ponderosa pine and Douglas and White-fir bark beetle caused mortality	GIS and Pest Management files	Forestwide (including Mescalero Apache Tribal Lands	Bark beetle-caused tree mortality has radically increased since last year due to the lack of precipitation. Ponderosa pine mortality was observed across 41,000 acres this year as compared to the 380 acres mapped in 2010. Fir mortality also increased significantly from ten acres last year to 1,700 acres in 2011. This mortality was found on both the Smokey Bear and Sacramento Ranger Districts. There were areas of mixed conifer in which we observed both fir and ponderosa pine mortality within the same stand. Based on site visits by the staff entomologist, it was discovered that within these areas there is a Douglas-fir beetle caused mortality component that is not represented in the maps or tables. The massive volume of mortality made it very difficult to discern the difference between the three damage types (ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, white fir). Douglas-fir beetle caused tree mortality was recorded across only 30 acres. As on the Lincoln NF, the Mescalero Apache Tribal Lands, ponderosa (22,000 acres) and fir (2,870 acres) mortality was the primary activity. Much of this mortality is in the mixed conifer stands mentioned above.
Insect and Disease	Western Spruce budworm and oak mortality	GIS and Pest Management files	Forestwide (including Mescalero Apache Tribal Lands)	Defoliation by western spruce budworm has decreased drastically from 25,560 acres to about 14,000 acres. With several years of activity, damage has become more apparent from the air and it has become difficult to distinguish new defoliation from old. Oak defoliation was observed on 1,100 acres of the Smokey Bear RD. As on the Lincoln NF, the Mescalero Apache Tribal Lands, defoliation by western spruce budworm were mapped on 3,000 acres. This is a reduction by half from last year.

RESOURCE	MONITORING ACCOMPLISHED	RECORD LOCATION	DISTRICT	FINDINGS OR LESSONS LEARNED
Insect and Disease	Aspen Defoliation and Decline	GIS and Pest Management files	Forestwide (including Mescalero Apache Tribal Lands)	Aspen defoliation increased from 660 acres to about 1,200 acres across the Lincoln NF. This year approximately 20 acres of aspen decline were mapped on the Forest. The areas mapped this year were new areas of decline or areas where the aspen decline has progressed from light to heavy. There were 610 acres of aspen defoliation and aspen decline was not observed on the Mescalero Apache Tribal Lands.
Plants (TE&S and Rare Plants)	Sacramento Prickly Poppy populations	GIS and Botany files	Forestwide	Surveys for the Endangered Sacramento prickly poppy (Argemone pinnatisecta) were conducted in Fresnal and Alamo Canyons by the Forest Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service on September 26, 2011 (Fresnal) and September 27, 2011 (Alamo). The surveys were conducted to provide information on the long-term trend in relative abundance of this plant. Both seedlings and adults were counted during these surveys. During the survey in Fresnal Canyon there were 86 mature plants and 26 seedlings observed. All of the seedlings consisted of rosettes with small leaves; none of the seedlings retained their seed leaves (cotyledons). The total number of mature plants in Alamo Canyon was 281. There were also 117 seedlings observed. About 1/3 of the seedlings observed had recently germinated, as evidence by their seed leaves (cotyledons), estimated to have germinated within the last 4 to 6 weeks of the survey. The remaining seedlings consisted of rosettes with small leaves. Creation of a recovery garden at the Lincoln NF Supervisor's Office was completed in 2011. In addition, a new monitoring plan and strategy was created.
Plants (TE&S and Rare Plants)	Kuenzlers cactus within range allotments/pastures	INFRA and Range files	Forestwide	Surveys were conducted in the appropriate seasons to determine any new locations for the cactus. In addition, surveys were conducted in areas of known occupancy to determine the current individual status of the cactus and potential response to management and protective actions. No new sites of cactus were found. The cactus was also not seen in areas previously surveyed and found.
Plants (TE&S and	Kuenzler Hedgehog Cacti within	INFRA and District	Smokey Bear	A total of 1,236 acres were monitored. The population

RESOURCE	MONITORING ACCOMPLISHED	RECORD LOCATION	DISTRICT	FINDINGS OR LESSONS LEARNED
Rare Plants)	units 1-6, 9 A and B, Tye Partial Treatment, Ridge Cut and Pele, and Tiny Fuelwood areas	Range files		numbers of the cacti remain small and relatively scattered throughout the Smokey Bear Ranger District. Some of the sites surveyed occurred in areas where there were disturbances from cattle and wildlife grazing and fragmentation by forest roads; however the disturbances do not seem significant. Although several of the sites contained various preferred elements (5,200' to 6,900' ft. elevations and east to south facing slopes from 0% to 5% comprised of limestone substrate), no individuals were found.
Plants (TE&S and Rare Plants)	Sacramento Mountain Thistle populations	INFRA and Botany Files	Sacramento	100 acres of known species presence was monitored. The species does maintain a presence in areas known to contain the plant and the populations remain stable. Riparian enclosure fence, which protects the plant and its habitat, was identified for repair or replacement and these fence needs were implemented as needed on the ground. In addition, other riparian enclosures were completely replaced including a vulnerable enclosure that surrounded a calcareous seep/overhang that provides habitat for several hundred Sacramento Mountain Thistle.
Plants (TE&S and Rare Plants)	Todsen's Pennyroyal populations	INFRA and Botany Files	Sacramento	125 acres within two known pennyroyal sites were visited to get a count of individuals and for general monitoring purposes. At the time of the visits, the plant numbers appeared to be the same as previous years. Comments on the habitat continue to identify the need to thin the pinion-juniper and shrub component around each of the pennyroyal sites to reduce potential for impact from wildfire events.
Plants (TE&S and Rare Plants)	Flora of the Guadalupe Mountains	INFRA and Botany Files	Guadalupe	An ongoing systematic botanical survey of the Guadalupe Ranger District was documented by a contractor during the spring (March-May), summer (June-August), and Fall (September- November) of 2011. The forest gained site information, location and mapping of plants listed as threatened, endangered, and R3 Sensitive that may be found on the Guadalupe Ranger District. In addition, a working list of plant species that may be found in the Guadalupe Mountains will be provided.
Range	Range allotment administration/annual	INFRA and District Range files	Forestwide	No significant findings. Permittees are following authorized use, are in compliance with standards and guidelines, and

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	compliance/utilization			rotation schedules are being met. Using an adaptive management approach by adjusting use in fire and drought situations.
Range	Range condition and trend	INFRA and Range files	Forestwide	Generally condition and trend was static in 2011. Summer precipitation varied across the forest, with some areas near average and significantly below average in others.
Range	Range development	INFRA and Range files	Forestwide	Range improvements (infrastructure) such as: fences, pipelines and water features were reviewed with permittees. Mapped locations were adjusted that where incorrect, new improvements were added, and additional improvements recommended. Approximately 6 miles of fence destroyed during the White Fire has been reconstructed.
Range	Watershed, soil, range condition, forage production/utilization, ecological status of scheduled allotments to support NEPA analyses.	INFRA and Range files	Forestwide	No significant findings. Findings vary by allotment and adjustments are documented in Range files.
Range	Elk and livestock demographics and habitat use (In partnership with New Mexico Department of Game and Fish)	Range files	Forestwide	Findings show an increasing impact from elk populations. Populations are increasing in lower elevations. Higher elevation concerns include range allotment fencing and salt problems.
Recreation	Developed sites	GIS and INFRA	Forestwide	As part of an ongoing real property inventory of recreation infrastructure, condition surveys were completed in FY2011. No significant findings or changes.
Recreation	Ski areas	Special-Use files	Smokey Bear, Sacramento	Ski Apache on the Smokey Bear RD opened and had a successful season. Cloudcroft ski area was closed in the winter of 2010-2011.
Roads	Road condition and class ratings	GIS and INFRA	Forestwide	Routine road maintenance was performed using both the road crew and contracts. BAER projects were implemented on roads within areas affected by wildfire. The National Turkey Federation installed approximately 45 "Road Closed" carsonite markers provided by the Forest Service on unauthorized roads designated by the Forest Service as part of a volunteer day in the Cloudcroft area on the Sacramento District. The average length of the

RESOURCE	MONITORING ACCOMPLISHED	RECORD LOCATION	DISTRICT	FINDINGS OR LESSONS LEARNED
				unauthorized roads was 0.1 miles.
Roads	High-clearance roads (Level 1 and 2)	INFRA	Forestwide	Installed fill material and riprap at 3 places of significant erosion on NFSR 174 and one place on NFSR 607 A as part of Mayhill Fire BAER Project. Installed 10 rolling dips where there had previously not been drainage structures on NFSR 174 and 607 A as part of Mayhill BAER Project. Installed fill material and riprap at 2 places of significant erosion on NFSR 120 C as part of the White Fire BAER Project. Installed 12 rolling dips where there had previously not been drainage structures on NFSR 5624, 5624 A, and 120 B as part of the White Fire. Placed surface material on NFSR 183 for 0.10 miles. In addition, surface material and constructed drainage fords were placed on NFSR 269 (0.1 miles).
Roads	Low-clearance roads (Level 3-5)	INFRA	Forestwide	Replaced approximately 30 burnt guardrail posts in two locations on NFSR 607 as part of Mayhill Fire BAER project. Installed riprap around and eroded culvert on NFSR 607 as part of the Mayhill Fire BAER Project. Reconstructed 0.1 miles of NFSR 5619 as part of White Fire BAER Project. Installed 5 rolling dips on NFSR 5619 as part of White Fire BAER project. Placed surface material on NFSR 174 through Mayhill Admin Site. Removed large hazard tree from NFSR 5661.
Roads	Bridge Crossings	Engineering files and GIS	Forestwide	Three aquatic organism passage (AOP) bridges were installed on Eagle Creek on the Smokey Bear Ranger District.
Streams	Impaired streams	GIS and Hydrology files	Forestwide	Rio Bonito was selected as a priority watershed and an action plan is being developed with the State to address total maximum daily load (TMDL) (bacteria in a stream/concentration of load) issues. Projects and best management practices are being identified to reduce TMDL. Rio Penasco had reported damage done by the public in FY2011. A proposal and design is in progress to fix the negative impacts and will be implemented in FY2012.
Vegetation	Forested Common Stand Exam (CSE) and Common Non-Forest	GIS, NRIS, and FSVEG	Forestwide	During field season 2011 approximately 55,000 acres of landscapes forest wide were monitored to assess effects of

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	Vegetation Sampling Procedures (CNVSP)			vegetation treatments in a variety of vegetation types. Landscapes affected by wildfire were also monitored in both treated and untreated landscapes. 447 plots were installed forest wide. Plots consisted of Common Stand Exam (CSE), Common Non-Forested Vegetation sampling Methods (CNVSP), and photo points. There are an additional 42 CNVSP plots which were installed by contractors in fall 2011. Permanent plots were installed in multiple landscapes district wide. TES habitats, treated landscapes, and a range of wildfire occurrences were evaluated for surface vegetation cover frequency, biodiversity, dominant species, and dominant cover. Wildfire occurrences ranged from 1994 to 2011. Data captures post fire recovery over time and post monsoon highlighting seasonal growth response.
Vegetation	SCI-Little Creek Wildlife Habitat Enhancement	GIS, NRIS, and FSVEG	Smokey Bear	The purpose of this project was to enhance wildlife habitat and create openings for the benefit of wildlife. This project, conducted in pinion juniper habitat was designed to restore the open woodland characteristics to the area providing increased forage and open spaces for wildlife use. The Little Creek thinning involved mechanical thinning and removal of pinion and juniper on the landscape, with some mastication completed along the road for visual purposes and reduction of down woody material. This area now resembles more of the landscape as previously described from times in the previous century. The open woodland characteristic consisting of open grassy areas has also increased the edge habitat, allowing for a greater diversity of wildlife species and birds in the area.
Vegetation	Donaldson Fire- Unplanned Ignition for Resource Benefit	GIS, NRIS, FACTS, and FSVEG	Smokey Bear	The Donaldson Fire was started by a natural ignition (lightning strike) in the summer season of 2011. This fire burned on the Smokey Bear RD for several acres with additional acres on BLM and private lands. These acres will be available to provide fresh browse and forage for a wide variety of wildlife species including quail, turkey, elk, deer, and other wildlife. The encouragement of fire into the

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				system will reduce brush and mid-story shrubs.
Vegetation	West Side Road Fuel Moisture Monitoring Site	District Files	Sacramento	A fuel moisture monitoring site was established in March 2011 along West Side road near High Rolls. The purpose of this monitoring site is to measure the live fuel moistures of the predominant tree species to help quantify the fire hazard in the area. Measurements are taken every two weeks from February through June and once a month during the rest of the year. The severe drought conditions have caused tree stress and mortality
Vegetation	North Bluewater Wildlife Openings Phase II	GIS, NRIS, and FSVeg	Sacramento	The purpose of this project was to create wildlife openings over 800 acres of pinion juniper woodlands to improve wildlife habitat. Additional forage quality and quantity for emphasis species. This thinning project is expected to increase vigor of browse plants and improve forage habitat, while maintaining sufficient cover for emphasis species.
Vegetation	Dinner Fire Complex – Unplanned Ignition for Resource Benefit	GIS, NRIS, FACTS, and FSVEG	Guadalupe	The dinner Fire complex was started by a series of natural ignitions (lightning strike) in the summer season of 2011. These fires burned on the Guadalupe RD for several acres with additional acres on BLM and private lands. These acres will be available to provide fresh browse and forage for a wide variety of wildlife species including quail, turkey, elk, deer, and other wildlife.
Water (drinking)	Routine Testing and Monitoring	Test results and files	Forestwide	All seven Forest drinking water systems were maintained and tested in FY11. All are in compliance with New Mexico Drinking Water Regulations.
Wetlands/Riparian	Stream Enhancement	Wildlife and Hydrology Files	Forestwide	The purpose of this project was to restore or enhance stream conditions on different segments of perennial streams across the LNF. Methods or techniques varied depending on segments of streams and the need for actions. Techniques included removal or exclusion of cattle from selected stream segments, repair and maintenance of stream exclosure fences, removal and exclusion of unauthorized off-road vehicle use of areas and related management actions. Additional actions included rebuilding of a stream channel, planting of native wetland species into areas and stabilization of the streambanks. Woody debris was dropped into sections of the streams in order to provide habitat for aquatic species and herps. Woody debris was

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				also used for organic closures and a way to slow water flow and encourage sediment deposition. Stream segments are improving and regaining function. An area with Rio Grande cutthroat trout is improving in condition and structure. Segment rehabilitation is expected to regain function and improve in condition.
Wetland/Riparian	Wetland/Riparian monitoring within Eagle Creek-North Fork Wells area.	Hydrology Files	Smoky Bear	Three aquatic organism passages were constructed. In addition, riparian vegetation was planted and woody debris placed to re-establish habitat. Twenty-five grade control structure-pools were created to provide for fish habitat.
Wetlands/Riparian	Wetland and Pooled Water Restoration and construction Workshop	Hydrology Files	Sacramento	A hands on workshop taught practical, low cost techniques for building and restoring wetlands and other pooled water resources such as springs, seeps, and stock tanks. The workshop taught the attendees how to select the best locations for building wetlands, test soils, lay out proposed wetlands, choose construction techniques, work with heavy equipment operators, and establish native plants. The class helped with the creation of a wetland and pooled water restoration project and other potential wetland creation sites were discussed and visited.
Wetland/Riparian	Wetland/Riparian monitoring within Aqua Chiquita stream	NRIS and Wildlife Files	Sacramento	Ambient air and in stream temperature monitoring is being performed on Aqua Chiquita and is being captured in reports. Fish habitat stream surveys have been conducted and findings are being reported. Monitoring will be continued for the next 2 years to determine if fish habitat is a potential for this stream.
Wildlife	Mexican spotted owl (MSO) preferred activity center (PAC) populations	NRIS and Wildlife files	Forestwide including Rocky Mountain Research Station Personnel	The Forest was able to monitor over 90 Protected Activity Centers (PACs) in FY 2011 and review projects in critical habitat to make sure they met specifications. Areas of critical habitat and PACs did receive annual monitoring (District personnel work listed below) and were administered to standard as recommended in the Mexican Spotted Owl Recovery Plan and according to subsequent biological opinions issued by the USFWS regarding project on the LNF.
Wildlife	Bat Inventory and Monitoring	Wildlife Files	Forestwide	A working list of bats that occur on the Lincoln NF has been generated with the assistance of BCI and the USFS biologists. All species were identified and several species

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				were captured. Sites of occurrence, location, habitat and season of capture are information that is generated by this monitoring. The forest has gained nationally established monitoring protocols for bat populations. 320 acres of bat habitat were inventoried with the use of mist netting and acoustical monitoring to identify bat species in the area. In the future, monitoring will be expanded to known hibernacula for the presence of WNS.
Wildlife	Red Squirrel Population	NRIS and Wildlife Files	Forestwide	The Lincoln has an objective to establish baseline population and occurrence of Red Squirrels on the forest, and compare Red Squirrel density in areas impacted by the looper (defoliation) resulting in salvage, and comparing with areas of no impact. Any future information obtained will be used in management indicator species (MIS) population trends and in Forest planning efforts as well as future recommendations. Red Squirrel Middens have been identified in the field both in areas of no impact from the defoliator and in areas impacted by the defoliator, thus resulting in timber salvage actions. A third area for statistical analysis has been identified has been identified as being areas here forest management activities has taken place over 10 years previously. A target 150 middens for the study have been identified, while to date a total of 100 sites have been established.
Wildlife	Small Mammal Surveys	NRIS and Wildlife files	Forestwide	The Lincoln NF initiated a series of systematic surveys for the Regional Forester Sensitive small mammal species on the Smokey Bear, Sacramento, and Guadalupe Ranger Districts. The intent is to begin baseline data gathering on these species across the forest. The Forest expects to gain occurrence information, site information, location and mapping of small mammal species that occur on the districts. In addition, a working list of small mammal species that may be found in the Sacramento and Guadalupe Mountains will be provided to the Forest Wildlife Biologist.
Wildlife	Breeding Bird Survey	NRIS and Wildlife files	Forestwide	Established and maintained breeding bird survey routes were documented. Surveys were conducted along specific

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				breeding bird survey routes. MIS birds were also noted, when present. The volunteer provided population inventory, data compilation, and mapping all bird species within the Lincoln NF.
Wildlife	Butterfly species and Monarch Butterfly Surveys	NRIS and Wildlife files	Forestwide	Surveys were conducted on 1,100 acres within the Lincoln NF to look for butterfly species that may be present on the landscape. A record of historical data, capture methods, and mapped previously known sites was established. Transect locations were determined and established. Survey documentation included time of year, time of day, capture methods, and type of butterfly. Baseline information and a working list of butterflies found on the forest will be used to determine and project occurrence trends for the species. The Monarch butterfly was only present near was sources, and in the lower elevations of the LNF (e.g. 4,500-5,500 ft elevation). A trick tank drinker was modified to allow for a steel mesh to be added. This mesh not only acts as an escape ramp for small mammals, but also allows for shallow water use by the Monarch butterfly. The confirmation of the Monarch butterfly presence at lower elevations has allowed the LNF to look at potential management actions that could be added to projects to benefit not only the butterfly but numerous other invertebrates and small mammals. Additional information is necessary for forest planning efforts and for establishing baseline data at the forest level.
Wildlife	Mexican spotted owl (MSO) preferred activity center (PAC) populations	NRIS and Wildlife files	Smokey Bear (This does not include monitoring by the Rocky Mountain Research Station. This is only by district personnel)	59 Mexican spotted owl monitoring surveys (night and morning surveys) were conducted within 18 Protected Activity Centers (PAC's) and 10,536 total acres. Surveyors detected 10 pairs of owls, 5 single owls, and 3 unoccupied areas in the areas visited. There was a reduction in nests from 7 to 0 between 2010 and 2011 which seems alarming, however taking into account the harsh winter and the dry spring of 2011 it is reasonable to assume that the prey base is low, resulting in very low MSO reproduction. Survey results were limited due to the high fire activity. Territories where only single owls were found this year probably still

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				have pairs in them, they were just not discovered.
Wildlife	Mexican spotted owl (MSO) Perk-Grindstone PAC populations	NRIS and Wildlife files	Smokey Bear	The PACs contained in the Perk/Grindstone Wild-Urban Interface (WUI) were surveyed for Mexican spotted owl surveys (night and morning surveys) 9 times over the field season in seventeen separate areas, beginning April 11, 2011 and ending July 7, 2011. Targeted areas were surveyed with 6 visits, unless reproductive pairs were confirmed in fewer visits. Flume and Perk was surveyed less than 4 times because nesting status was confirmed before the 4th visit. All three MSO pairs were determined to be non-nesting. Results of surveys, including numbers, reproduction status, and number of young observed is reported to the district.
Wildlife	Sacramento Mountain Salamander occurrence	NRIS and Wildlife files	Smokey Bear	Smokey Bear RD reported salamander presence in 6 of the 17 (35.3%) surveyed areas. The elevation range for salamander presence was between 8017-9706 feet. Habitat with salamander presence consisted of aspen, mixed conifer, and ponderosa pine trees. Surveys were delayed this year due to a dry winter and historic drought conditions for the region. This resulted in low success of salamander presence in the beginning of the monsoon season. If there was only 1 salamander found in the area, it was assumed that the entire area was occupied and was designated with a "present" status. Despite abundant rain in August, salamanders were absent from the majority of the survey areas. This could be due to the drier climates of these areas, and habitat consisting of more open grasslands with fewer trees, less canopy, less decomposing debris and limited drainages.
Wildlife	Northern goshawk populations	NRIS and Wildlife files	Smokey Bear	The 2011 goshawk season was extremely dry with very limited rainfall until early August. Smokey Bear RD monitored 15 areas, with 14 out 15 being high priority areas. Northern Goshawks were sited at only 6 locations. One nest was located and 5 juveniles were spotted within 4 survey areas confirming reproduction. The results of this year were higher than the previous year findings however success was still low. During MSO daytime surveys, 2 additional Goshawks were documented at Great Western

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				Mine/Big Bear and Iron/Kraut areas. Follow-up surveys were performed after goshawk presence during MSO surveys however only goshawks in Big Bear were observed during these surveys.
Wildlife	Madden Habitat Improvement Project	NRIS and Wildlife Files	Smokey Bear	Results from this project are significant and highly visible. More open grassy areas exist in the masticated areas, leaving a natural heterogeneous mix of habitat. Mastication and extraction efforts should promote higher vegetation diversity which will improve wildlife diversity and ecosystem resiliency. Permanent vegetation monitoring points were established in treatment areas prior to implementation and will be used to monitor any changes that occur over the next 10 years.
Wildlife	Rio Ruidoso Fish Sampling	NRIS and Wildlife Files	Smokey Bear	A portion of the Rio Ruidoso was sampled to monitor native and non-native fish populations. This was also conducted as a preliminary action to review if the river would be eligible for reintroduction of native fish, specifically the Rio Grande Cut-throat Trout. There were several species of fish captured during the monitoring/sampling that was conducted. The most fish caught were brook trout, not unexpected, given that the NMG&F have stocked brook trout in this system (lower down) since the 1950's. Also present were a few rainbow trout, various suckers and darters as well as a chub. No Rio Grande (native species) trout were found in this section of the river. Evaluations are being made as to whether to include this section of the river into the native fish restoration planning.
Wildlife	Mexican spotted owl (MSO) Protected Activity Center (PAC) populations	NRIS and Wildlife files	Sacramento	As of 2011, there are 117 established PACs on the Sacramento Ranger District. In accordance with the Region 3 MSO Survey Protocol, formal and informal monitoring was completed on 13 PAC's. Results confirmed 6 MSO males and 4 MSO pairs within the PAC's. The Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS) assisted the Lincoln through acceptable similar protocols with the monitoring of an additional 78 PACs. Of those PACs there were 66 pairs, 4 males, 1 female and 7 PACs with no

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				response.
Wildlife	Sacramento Mountain Checkerspot butterfly (SMCB) Transplant	Wildlife Files	Sacramento	190 acres of habitat have been inventoried in 2011 in order to determine response of previously transplanted SMCB. Transplants have been augmented from year two to year three of the effort. No conclusive results are available. The sites are being monitored. Some success for adult egg-laying within transplant sites has been shown indicated by the presence of larvae on the species primary host plant, New Mexico Penstemon, however, it is unknown if the larvae survived.
Wildlife	Butterfly surveys including the Sacramento Mountain Checkerspot butterfly (SMCB)	Wildlife files	Sacramento	A series of systematic surveys for Butterfly species were conducted. The District monitored 9 established plots for SMCB larvae to stay in compliance with the SMCB Conservation Plan. During all visits to each larvae plot during the month of September, Forest Service personnel did not detect one larvae tent or egg mass within the plots. The district also monitored for adult butterflies in established transects to compare to previous years. Adult butterflies were found in four of the nine areas monitored.
Wildlife	Northern goshawk populations	NRIS and Wildlife files	Sacramento	Survey guidelines and protocol were adhered to during call-playback surveys in 10 historical Post-fledgling Family Areas (PFA) during nestling and fledgling stages from June 1st to August 15th. Occupancy was confirmed in the Dario PFA. Pair occupancy was detected as well as the nest along with 2 nestlings on June 30, 2011, both adults were present and the 2 nestlings had begun to develop their dark juvenile feathers. The winter and spring of 2011 was very dry and it is very possible this affected the nesting status and reproduction of the goshawk population of the Lincoln.
Wildlife	Bat Monitoring	NRIS and Wildlife Files	Sacramento	Areas with perennial slow moving water along forested areas were selected as monitoring sites. Methods of monitoring included mist netting and acoustical monitoring along selected water sites (passive and active). Surveys were conducted April through September 2011. Bats captured were identified to species, age and sex, and were also examined for any signs or symptoms of White Nose Syndrome (WNS). All handlers followed established WNS decontamination techniques, and were current on protective

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				rabies vaccinations. A working list of bats that occur on the Sacramento Ranger District is currently being maintained. All capture and detection results can be found in an excel file on the district.
Wildlife	Sacramento Mountain Salamander occurrence	NRIS and Wildlife files	Sacramento	Presence/absence surveys were conducted from August 2, 2011 until August 19, 2011 by separating search areas into existing vegetation stands and physically verifying species presence or absence within the habitat. Beginning August 2, 2011, the Jim Lewis Project Site of potential and identified Sacramento Mountain Salamander habitat was found to have no presence. The NM State Salamander working group has recommended that no more than 25% of the District's known occupied habitat have vegetative treatment within a ten year period. The forest has adopted this recommendation and has verified that they are within this 25% treatment level. A continued survey of forest stands allows for informed mechanical thinning and management and ensures salamander habitat is preserved. 5 canyons where salamander presence was previously undetected were surveyed during 2011. Those canyons continue to be unoccupied by salamanders.
Wildlife	New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse	Wildlife files	Sacramento	The 2011 survey effort at the Silver Spring trapping site found no occurrence of the NM meadow jumping mouse (Zappus hudsonius luteus). Severe drought conditions and difficulties that are associated with trapping this particular species may have led to this species not being found. Other species found at the site included: the long-tailed vole (Mycrotus longicaudus), the Mogollon vole (Microtus mogollonensis), and the deer mouse (Peromyscus manicalatus).
Wildlife	Zone-tail Hawk	Wildlife Files	Sacramento Guadalupe	Incidental siting of the zone-tail hawk occurred in Dark Canyon on the Guadalupe and the Rio Penasco drainage on the Sacramento District. Five individuals were observed. Two at trick tanks.
Wildlife	Bat Inventory and Monitoring	Wildlife Files	Guadalupe	The Lincoln NF is attempting to gather baseline data of numbers of hibernating bats in selected caves on the Guadalupe RD. Qualified individuals from BLM, NPS, and the National Cave and Karst Research Institute (NCKRI),

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				not totaling more than 6, entered select caves on the District. Hibernacula were visited totaling approximately 600 acres inventoried and the bats were counted. The number of bats appears to be stable or at least comparable with previous years. In addition, any signs of potential WNS in the bats, erratic behavior, or physical signs were noted documented. A number of dead bats (15-25) were reported at one cave. Two bats were collected, tagged and shipped according to WNS collection protocol, and sent to the WNS testing lab. Final results identified the bats as Yuma bats, having died of pneumonia. No WNS was detected.
Wildlife	Breeding Bird Survey	Wildlife Files	Guadalupe	Surveys were conducted along specific breeding bird survey routes, which included 1,400 acres inventoried. MIS birds were also noted, when present. The volunteer provided population inventory, data compilation, and mapping of all bird species from transects preformed along Red Lick and Last Chance Canyon. The information will be used for future Forest planning and project planning and implementation.
Wildlife	Gray Vireo monitoring	Wildlife and Volunteer Files	Guadalupe	Post-fire monitoring of the Gray Vireo was established to observe and document the use of areas that had been impacted by wildfires. To insure complete coverage and increase the probability of detection, a contractor conducted surveys on 300 acres twice during the field season. Observations were made on presence and nesting use of the post –burn area. The information indicates a definite post-wildfire use of the area by the Gray Vireo. It appears that the birds used the more open grassy area that resulted from post fire conditions as a foraging area.
Wildlife	Goat RX Photo Monitoring Project	GIS, Wildlife/Sikes Files, NMG&F	Guadalupe	The purpose of the photo monitoring project is to provide a visual prescription of the area that was treated by prescription fire within the FY 1999 Goat RX Fire Project. Photos that are provided in the report document before and after photos showing extent of regrowth and re-establishment of grasses and forbs as well as other visual changes.
Wildlife	Sikes Habitat Stamp Program	GIS, INFRA,	Forestwide	Additional habitat improvements were placed across the

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	(HSP) improvements	Wildlife/Sikes Files, NMG&F		Forest and monitoring established. Sikes data was consolidated into a New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish geodatabase. Wetland restoration on Bailey Canyon was completed and partially funded through HSP. Emphasis was on trick tank replacement. Wildlife habitat enhancement was completed which was also partially funded through HSP.
Wildlife	Sikes Habitat Stamp Program Maintenance	GIS, INFRA, Wildlife/Sikes Files, NMG&F	Forestwide	Maintenance was successfully performed on exiting NMG&F Habitat Stamp Program projects to prolong the life of existing projects during the 2011 field season. Maintenance activities were necessary to provide a reliable source of water, food, and cover for wildlife in areas where habitat improvement occurred. Due to the drought and pressure from cattle and wildlife, extra effort was taken on riparian fence exclosures.

For additional information, go to http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/lincoln/ or contact the Lincoln National Forest Supervisor's Office at 575-434-7200.