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Agriculture

Forest Service

Intermountain Region

2009 Annual Monitoring Report

Payette National Forest

Land and Resource Management Plan



2009 Payette NF Monitoring and Evaluation Report

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2009 MONITORING REPORT

PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

SEPTEMBER 2010

1. Introduction

1.1 The Forest and The Forest Plan

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

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

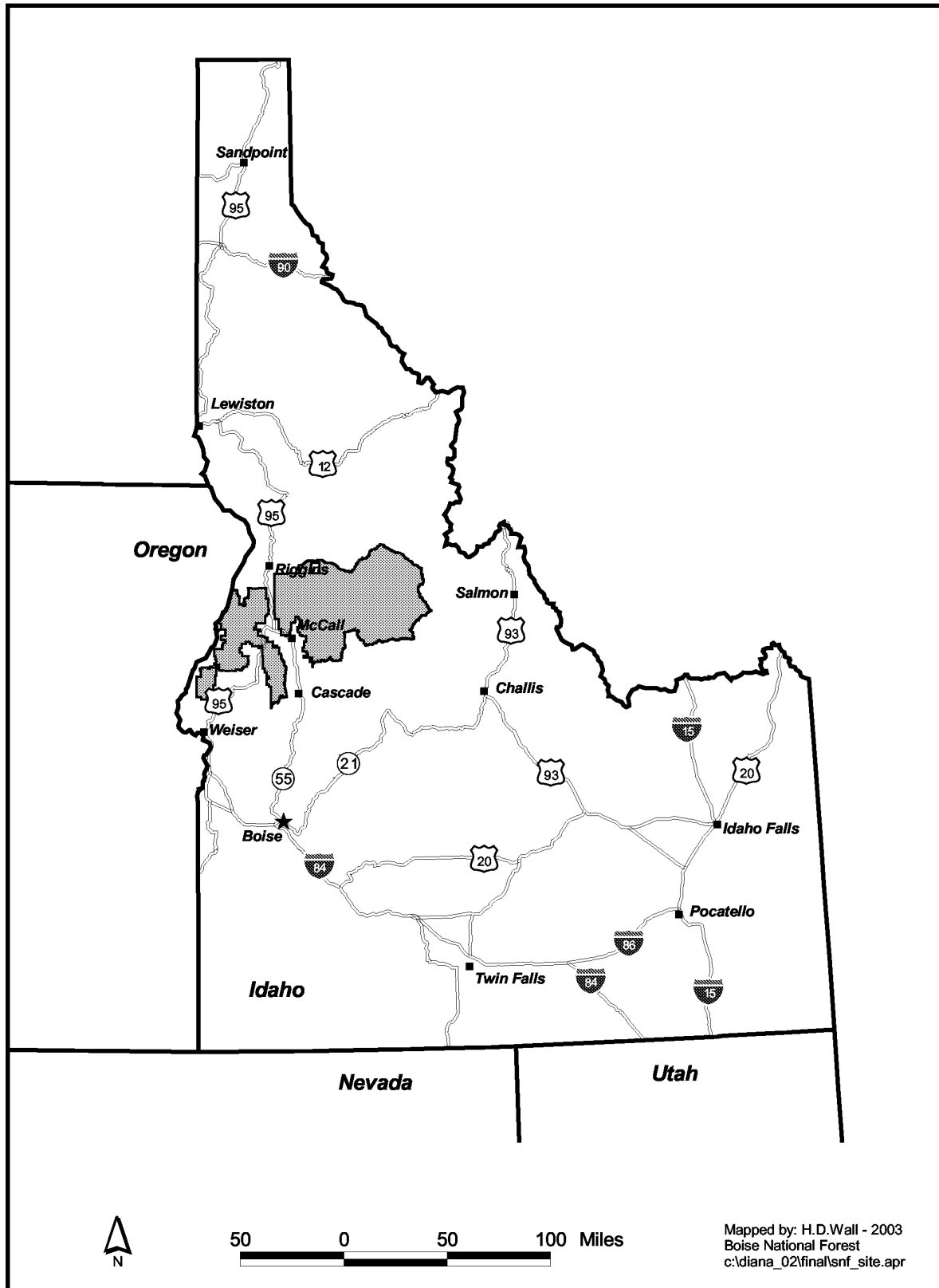
After implementation of the 1988 Forest Plan, it was evident that forest plans need to be dynamic to account for changes in resource conditions such as large scale wildfire or listing of additional species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), new information, and changed regulation and policies such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

After the large wildfires on the Forest in FY2006 and FY2007, the Forest experienced few natural disturbance events during 2008 and 2009, with only 11,700 acres consumed by wildfire in 2008, and 610 acres in 2009. This Monitoring and Evaluation Report reflects the sixth full year of implementing the

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revised Forest Plan. It reports Forest monitoring activities and accomplishments for fiscal year 2009, which was from October 2008 through September 2009. In addition to this annual report of monitoring results the three Ecogroup Forests will be completing a Five-Year Monitoring Report summarizing the results of the first five years of monitoring on the 2003 Forest Plan. The expected completion date of this report is fall 2010.

Figure 1 Location of Payette National Forest



Mapped by: H.D.Wall - 2003
Boise National Forest
c:\diana_02\final\snf_site.apr

1.2 Forest Plan Monitoring and Evaluation

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

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

As this is the sixth year of monitoring under the revised Forest Plan, this report focuses on the elements from Tables IV-1 and IV-2 that are to be reported annually, those that are to be reported every two years, and those that are tracked every three years.

1.3 Applying Forest Plan Monitoring and Evaluation

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

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

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

1.4 Report Organization

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

Section 2.2 shows the 27 monitoring elements required to be reported annually, every two years, or every three years in **Table IV-2** of the Forest Plan, “Monitoring Elements.” This Table lists questions and indicators to monitor to determine the success of the Forest Plan management strategy in progressing toward desired conditions.

Section 2.3 describes the project level monitoring completed in 2009. This monitoring collects some of the information needed to address annual monitoring elements in Tables IV-1 and IV-2, as well as the elements that have annual information needs to evaluate and report every 2, 3, or 5 years.

2 2009 Monitoring and Evaluation

2.1 Annual Monitoring Elements from Table IV-1

2.1.1 Evaluation of Performance

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

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

2.1.1.1 Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate Species

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

ESA-listed and R4 Sensitive Fishes

Maps of known distributions of ESA-listed fishes, including management indicator species (MIS), and R4 sensitive fishes on the Forest are updated as new information is obtained, often during pre-project inventories, which typically means that they are updated at least annually. The Fisheries Program has not been coordinating with the Idaho Conservation Data Center (ICDC) but does coordinate annually with Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), and did so in the spring of 2009.

ESA-listed Wildlife Species

See the Biological Assessments and related reports on the 2009 Monitoring Report website.

Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel

Forest-Wide Population Monitoring

Information will be updated at a later date.

Vegetation Monitoring

Information will be updated at a later date.

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

Information will be updated at a later date.

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

ESA-listed Wildlife Species. - This objective is one of the key considerations in project-level and other fine-scale analyses. In 2009, Payette NF biologists consulted on numerous project specific activities on listed wildlife species. Project design features and mitigation measures will reduce the impacts of ongoing activities on listed species.

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

Information will be updated at a later date.

2.1.1.2 Air Quality and Smoke Management

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

Accomplishment: The Payette NF is a party to the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group. The State of Idaho, Department of Environment Quality (IDEQ), recognizes participation with this organization meets the basic requirements for smoke management within Idaho. The Payette National Forest is a voluntary member of this program. As a way to maintain acceptable air quality within the airshed, the Forest

requests approval for prescribed burning one day prior to ignition of all prescribed burning activities. Prescribed burns are ignited only if the requests are approved. During FY09, the forest made this request on 48 occasions and received concurrence to burn on all occasions. None of the 48 prescribed burning activities or the 1 fire meeting resource objectives exceeded NAAQS.

One public complaint was sent to the forest by the Idaho State DEQ. This pertained to smoke in the community of Riggins, ID. The New Meadows RD requested a smoke monitor be placed in Riggins several weeks prior to implementation of the Patrick Butte Prescribed Burn, which it was. This allowed the tracking of ambient air quality and any change relative to the implementation. When the data was reviewed by DEQ there was found to be little change to ambient levels by the implementation and it was well within NAAQS.

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

Emissions data for prescribed fires is being collected through the Airshed Management System (AMS). The AMS is a web based tool that all Montana/Idaho Airshed Group members use to request burn day recommendations and report actual acres accomplished. This data is archived and available to IDEQ. There is no emission data collection system for fires meeting resource objectives. The IDEQ has not developed a Regional Haze SIP, but anticipated submitting a plan to EPA in 2010. This plan should outline what data requirements, if any, are needed to report emissions from wildland fire for resource benefit. Implementation it expected to take place in 2014.

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

During FY09 the forest used mechanical means, prescribed burning as mentioned above (ASOB01; Accomplishment), and fire meeting resource objectives to help manage vegetation to reduce potential smoke from uncharacteristic wildfire. The total area treated by these means was 3,700 acres.

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

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

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

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

2.1.1.3 Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic Resources

Soil Processes and Productivity

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

Accomplishments: No updates were made to the landslide prone database in 2009.

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

Accomplishments: In 2009, Post-fire Rehabilitation and Restoration projects were implemented on the 2007 Cascade Complex, East Zone Complex, Gray Creek Fires. Rehabilitation actions were implemented to reduce the risk of post-wildfire watershed runoff in subwatersheds with potential threats to life and property. No opportunities were identified to use fuels management activities to reduce the risk of post-wildfire threats to life and property.

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

The Forest continues to identify opportunities to restore degraded soil conditions during timber and fuels management project proposals and NEPA analysis. Opportunities consist of the identification of areas of Total Soil Resource Commitment and Detrimental Disturbance where improvements can be made to improve long-term soil productivity to meet Forest Plan standards and guidelines.

Hydrology and Watershed Processes

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

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

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

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

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

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

Accomplishments: SW Objectives 5-8 pertaining to TMDLs and 303(d) impaired water bodies are addressed together. In 2009, the Forest continues to provide representation to the following Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) as requested: 1) SFSR, 2) Cascade Reservoir, 3) Big Payette Lake, 4) Weiser River, and 5) Little Salmon River. The Forest continues to cooperate with DEQ on implementation and effectiveness monitoring. 2009 Monitoring Plans and 2008 Monitoring Results were provided to DEQ during our annual spring coordination meeting.

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

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

The "Framework" will include a process and frequency for updating information that ensures broad-scale goals and objectives for species conservation and changes in environmental baselines within the SWIE are kept sufficiently current to inform project development and consultation at the site (project) scale (National Marine Fisheries Service 2003). The Forest presented a draft "Framework" document to the NMFS and USFWS in 2008 and is scheduled to work on the process in FY2011.

Objective SWOB10: *Coordinate with municipalities to ensure that management actions are consistent with water quality requirements within municipal watersheds.*

Accomplishments: The Forest continues to provide a representation on the Big Payette Lake Watershed Advisory Committee. Big Payette Lake and the North Fork Payette River above the Lake is the Municipal Watershed for the City of McCall.

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

See the related reports on the 2009 Monitoring Report website.

SWRA Restoration

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

Accomplishments: No new updates to WARS where required in FY2009.

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

Accomplishments: 36.5 miles (182.5 acres) of unauthorized roads were obliterated in FY 2009 using a combination of watershed, road, fish and wildlife, BAER, and post-fire recovery funds. See the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (Section 2.1.4, table 8) and Watershed Aquatic Recovery Strategy (Section 2.2.1.4, table 10) accomplishments for specifics.

2.1.1.4 Wildlife Resources

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

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

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

Information will be updated at a later date.

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

Information will be updated at a later date.

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

Information will be updated at a later date.

2.1.1.5 Vegetation

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

In 2009, we implemented work on a Forest wide Intensified Inventory data gathering project and a training site data collection project. These projects would provide vegetation confirmation data for our existing vegetation mapping project. Both of these data gathering efforts will help identify areas that contain aspen, western larch and whitebark pine. Field crews were directed to specifically look for those species in the collection of data for training sites, so that they may possibly be incorporated into mid-level mapping. This would facilitate future fine-scale analysis.

The Summit Gulch Vegetation Management Project (Decision signed 9/09) and the Crooked River Vegetation Management Project (Decision signed 9/09) discuss returning prescribed fire to the landscape which would rejuvenate fire dependent grass and forbs communities as well as provide other resource benefits. When implemented, projects from both Decisions would work towards meeting at least one of the items outlined under Objective VEOB01.

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

No accomplishments in 2009.

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

No accomplishments in 2009.

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

Worked with both Donnelly Elementary School and the Camp Morrison Boy Scout Camp in understanding fire ecology and its relationship to vegetation diversity.

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

The Forest did utilize local personnel from the Rocky Mountain Research Station out of Ogden, Utah to assist with preliminary analysis for the Wildlife Conservation Strategy. They utilized the data gathered from the 2009 Intensified Inventory project.

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

In June 2009, the Forest began a collaborative effort with the Payette Forest Coalition; a group composed of private individuals, timber industry representatives, environmental community representatives, Congressional representatives, Woody Biomass Utilization Partnership, County representatives, and with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation as the Convener. This group was interested in improving wildlife habitat on the Payette NF and began working to outline strategies for vegetation management that would restore and/or maintain vegetative desired conditions.

As part of the Wildlife Conservation Strategy, a mapping effort was started to determine high priority areas for vegetation treatments based on departure from vegetative historic range of variability. High priority areas for wildlife treatment were then overlaid on the high priority vegetation map to provide a composite landscape map. From this composite high priority landscape map, opportunities treatment that would restore or maintain vegetative desired conditions could be scheduled for treatments.

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

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

The Payette NF began implementation of integrating Forest wide Intensified Inventory data and existing vegetation mapping.

Training site data was collected throughout the Payette National Forest for both existing vegetation and potential vegetation. This will facilitate future modeling and updates for both of those mid-level map products.

2.1.1.6 Botanical Resources

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

Locations of occupied and suitable plant habitats and their populations were mapped either as new locations or as expanded populations during fiscal year 2009. Site and species information was gathered and sent to Idaho CDC in October of 2009.

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

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

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

No Special Interest sites recommended in 2009.

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

No Rare Plant Conference with Idaho Fish and Game was held in 2009. Updated rare species status lists from the Regional Forester and Natural Heritage Programs was used to make changes in global and state status of rare plants found on the Payette.

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

Species Name	Common Name	Global ¹	State ²	Forest Service Status ³		Global Distrib. ⁴
				Regional Sensitive	PNF Plan	
				Current	Proposed	
<i>Allium madidum</i>	swamp onion	G3	S3	S	S	re
<i>Allium tolmiei</i> var. <i>persimile</i>	Tolmie's onion	G4/T3	S3	S	S	le
<i>Allium validum</i>	Tall Swamp Onion	G4	S3	N	W	w
<i>Allotropa virgata</i>	candystick	G4	S3	S	S	d
<i>Arabis sparsiflora</i> var. <i>atrorubens</i>	Sicklepad Rockcress	G5T3	-	-	W	w
<i>Astragalus paysonii</i>	Payson's milkvetch	G3	S3	S	S	re
<i>Astragalus vexilliflexus</i> var. <i>nubilis</i>	bent flowered milkvetch	G4/T? ⁵	S1	S	S	d
<i>Botrychium lanceolatum</i>	Lance-leaved moonwort	G5T4	S3	N	W	cb
<i>Botrychium lineare</i>	Slender moonwort	C-G1	SH	S	S	sd
<i>Botrychium simplex</i>	Least moonwort	G5	S2	S	W	cb
<i>Buxbaumia viridis</i>	green bug moss	G4	S2	N	W	w
<i>Calamagrostis tweedyi</i>	Cascade reedgrass	G3	S2	S	S	re
<i>Camassia cusickii</i>	Cusick camas	G4	S2	S	S	re
<i>Carex aboriginum</i>	Indian Valley Sedge	G1	S1	N	W	le
<i>Carex buxbaumii</i>	Buxbaum's sedge	G5	S3	N	W	w
<i>Ceanothus prostratus</i> ssp. <i>prostratus</i>	Mahala-mat ceanothus	G5/?	S1	N	W	d
<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i> spp. <i>nanus</i>	dwarf grey rabbitbrush	G5/T4	S3	N	W	re

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Species Name	Common Name	Global ¹	State ²	Forest Service Status ³		Global Distrib. ⁴
				Regional Sensitive	PNF Plan	
<i>Crepis bakeri</i> ssp. <i>idahoensis</i> .	Idaho hawksbeard	G4/T2	S2	N	W	le
<i>Douglasia idahoensis</i>	Idaho Douglasia	G2	S2	S	S	le
<i>Draba incerta</i>	Yellowstone draba	G5	S2	N	W	re
<i>Eatonella nivea</i>	White eatonella	G4	S3	N	W	d
<i>Epilobium palustre</i>	Swamp Willow Weed	G5	S3	N	W	w
<i>Epipactis gigantea</i>	Giant helleborine orchid	G3	S3	N	W	sd
<i>Hackelia davisii</i>	Davis' stickseed	G3	S3	N	W	le
<i>Halimolobos perplexa</i> var. <i>perplexa</i>	Puzzling halimolobos	G4/T3	S3	S	S	le
<i>Haplopappus radiates</i> (<i>Pyrocoma radiata</i>)	Snake River golden weed	G3	S3	S	S	re
<i>Helodium blandowii</i>	Blandow's helodium	G5	S2	N	W	cb
<i>Hierochloe odorata</i>	Sweetgrass	G4/G5	N	N	W	w
<i>Howellia aquatilis</i>	Water howellia	T-G2	S1	N	W	sd
<i>Leptodactylon pungens</i> ssp. <i>hazeliae</i>	Hazel's prickly phlox	G5/T2	S2	S	S	le
<i>Lewisia sacajawean</i>	Sacajawea's bitterroot	G4	S2	S	S	re
<i>Lobaria scrobiculata</i>	Pored lungwort	G3/G4	S1	N	W	cb
<i>Mimulus clivicola</i>	Bank Monkeyflower	G4	S3	S	S	re
<i>Mirabilis macfarlanei</i>	MacFarlane's four-o'clock	T-G2	S2	N	W	le
<i>Peraphyllum ramosissimum</i>	Squaw apple	G4	S2	N	W	sd
<i>Pilophorus acicularis</i>	Nail lichen	G4	S2	N	W	sd
<i>Polystichum kruckebergii</i>	Kruckeberg's Sword-fern	G4	S2	N	W	re

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

¹**Global** - Global ranking as assigned by Natural Heritage Program and Idaho Native Plant Society. **T** = Threatened, **C** = Candidate.
²**State** - Idaho State ranking, **SH** = State Historical Occurrence, **S1** = State critically imperiled, **S2** = State Imperiled, **S3** = State rare or uncommon not imperiled. ³**Forest Service Status** - **S** = Region 4 Sensitive, **W** = Forest Watch plants, **N** = No current status.
⁴**Global Distribution** - **d** = disjunct, **le** = local endemic (< 100 square miles), **re** = regional endemic (distribution 100-10,000), **sd** = sparsely distributed (isolated populations), **p** = peripheral, **w** = widespread, **cb** = circumboreal, circumpolar.

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

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

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

No accomplishments this year.

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

Provided training on rare plants and native plants on the Payette to employees and the public. Taught native plant identification to Council High School and the Payette Range summer seasonal work force.

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

Botanical surveys or monitoring occurred on over 15 sites in 2009. Invasive plants are noted on all surveys and reported to Forest Weed Management for treatment. Idaho rare plant observation reports were completed for over 25 rare plant sites in areas that burned in the 2006-2007 wildfires.

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

Site and species information was gathered and sent to Idaho CDC.

Objective BTOB10: *Identify areas of high potential for cryptogamic crust restoration and/or maintenance.*

None identified.

Objective BTOB11: *Enhance public awareness of the fundamental importance of plants to society through educational programs about native plants, plant conservation, biological diversity, ecological processes, and noxious weeds.*

Worked with the area FFA high school students identifying native and noxious weeds at Brownlee Guard Station.

Objective BTOB12: *As a means of proactive management, seek funding for, prioritize preparation of, and prepare Conservation Agreements and Strategies to maintain or restore habitats of Sensitive plant species.*

A Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Tobias' Saxifrage (*Saxifrage bryophora* var. *tobiasiae*) on the Payette National Forest, Idaho was completed and signed by the Forest Supervisor on September 8, 2009.

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

Worked with Kansas State University on collection permits for *Lappula* (Stickseed). Processed the collection permit and worked with Oregon State University on collecting corn lily rhizome samples for cancer research.

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

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

2.1.1.7 Non-native Plants

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

In 2009, Forest weed management crews collected tabular and spatial data on 74 invasive weed sites and uploaded information into the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) corporate database. These weed infestations totaled approximately 460 acres; however, most infestations have light to moderate densities of noxious weeds within them.

Standard NPST03: To prevent invasion/expansion of noxious weeds, the following provisions will be included in all special use authorizations, timber sale contracts, service contracts, or operating plans where land-disturbing activities are associated with the authorized land use (additional direction may be found in timber sale and service contract provisions and in Forest Service handbooks):

- a) **Revegetate areas, as designated by the Forest Service, where the soil has been exposed by ground-disturbing activity. Implement other measures, as designated by the Forest Service, to supplement the influence of re-vegetation in preventing the invasion or expansion of noxious weeds. Potential areas would include: construction and development sites, underground utility corridors, skid trails, landings, firebreaks, slides, slumps, temporary roads, cut and fill slopes, and traveledways of specified roads.**
- b) **Earth-disturbing equipment used on National Forest System lands--such as cats, graders, and front-loaders--shall be cleaned to remove all visible plant parts, dirt, and material that may carry noxious weed seeds. Cleaning shall occur prior to entry onto the project area and again upon leaving the project area, if the project area has noxious weed infestations. This also applies to fire suppression earth-disturbing equipment contracted after a WFSA/WFIP has been completed.**

Goal NPGO2: *Prevent new infestations of undesirable non-native plants or noxious weed species, with emphasis on areas of high susceptibility where those species have a strong probability for establishment and spread.*

Guideline NPGU01: *Noxious weeds and undesirable non-native plants should be eradicated. Where it is not practical to eradicate existing infestations, infestations should be managed to prevent seed production and spread.*

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

Forest Plan standards and guidelines have undoubtedly prevented new infestations of noxious weeds, although the level of prevention is difficult to quantify. For example, standard NPST03 requires all earth-disturbing equipment to be cleaned prior to entry onto and again prior to leaving NFS lands. This standard helps ensure that new sources of weed seeds do not enter or exit the Payette National Forest.

Forest weed management crews treated approximately 455 infestations of noxious weeds in 2009. The objective for management of a minority of these sites was to contain the weeds. For those sites treated with a containment objective, efficacy of treatments were reported most commonly as being between 85-90% effective. The efficacy rate tends to be lower on contain-strategy sites due to their large size and number of plants, which decreases the ability of the treatment crews to locate and apply herbicide to all plants.

Forest weed management crews treated approximately 455 infestations of noxious weeds in 2009. The objective for management of the majority of these sites was to control the weeds. For those sites treated with a control objective, efficacy of treatments were reported most commonly as being between 90-95% effective. The efficacy rate tends to be higher on control-strategy sites due to their small size and number of plants, which increases the ability of the treatment crews to locate and apply herbicide to all plants.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.1.1.8 Fire Management

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

Accomplishment - During fiscal year 2009, the Payette treated 3,612 acres of hazardous fuels using prescribed burning and mechanical treatments. The forest also treated 88 acres using naturally occurring fire (Wildland Fires Meeting Resource Objectives). Of the 3,700 acres total treated, the treatment mix was 2 percent WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) and 81 percent Non-WUI. Table 3 shows

the types of treatment acres. Although current direction is to provide a 50/50 mix of WUI/Non-WUI, it is nationally and regionally recognized that not all Forests have this land distribution. Therefore, Forests such as the Payette are expected to produce more of the Non-WUI acres to help balance WUI acres elsewhere. When going beyond the WUI, direction is to place a priority on those areas of the Forest within fire regimes 1, 2, and 3 (frequent fire regimes) that are also classified as condition classes 2 and 3 (those most departed from historic conditions). Much of the work that the Payette completed in the Non-WUI portion of the Forest in 2009 did occur in these areas and has helped to move them toward lower condition class ratings.

Table 2 Hazardous Fuels Treated, Fiscal Year 2009

FY 2008	WUI Treatments	WUI Acres	Non-WUI Treatments	Non-WUI Acres	Total Treatments	Total Acres
Mechanical	0	0	1	414	1	414
Prescribed Fire	19	693	29	2505	48	3198
Subtotal	19	693	30	2919	49	3612
Fire Meeting Resource Objectives*	0	0	1	88	1	88
Total	19	693	31	3007	50	3700

* Fires Meeting Resource Objectives acres are considered part of the forest unified target, because they do reflect an ecological change on the landscape including condition class change.

2.1.1.9 Timberland Resources

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

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

Table 3 shows the acres harvested reforested and thinned in FY 09. Harvested acres include 491 acres of clearcuts, 49 acres of prep cuts, 290 acres of removal cuts, 169 acres of improvement cuts and 943 acres of thinning treatments. Reforestation acres include 2,521 acres of planting, 845 acres of site preparation for planting and 13 acres of natural regeneration without site preparation. Due to the large reforestation workload in FY 09, a Forest decision was made to defer a timber stand improvement contract until FY 10.

Table 3. Timber Area Treated, Fiscal Year 2009

	Total Acres of Timber Harvested	Total Acres Reforested	Total Acres Timber Stand Improvement
Completed	1,946	3,379	0

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

In fiscal year 2009, the Payette NF offered approximately 5.9 million (MMBF) of timber. The Forest sold 1.6 MMBF and claimed an addition 1.3 MMBF in add on volume for a total sold volume of 2.9 MMBF. The volume offered was 18% of the yearly ASQ and the actual amount of volume sold was 9% of the yearly ASQ estimated for Objective TROB02.

We did not meet the yearly offer or sell of timber for several reasons; NEPA decisions on three projects were delayed due to the Bird Study and Wildlife Conservation Strategy resulting in these projects not being able to be sold as planned; Two ARRA projects were offered however the EROC was unable to award these projects in FY 09; Two projects did not get sold because of a large sale prep workload did not allow us to complete all the prep work; One project was offered for the 3rd time and received no bids; Two other projects were offered and received no bids.

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

The Payette sold approximately 2.1 million board feet (MMBF) of wood products in FY 09. When combined with the 2.9 MMBF of timber sold from TROB02, the Forest contributed a total of 5.0 MMBF to the TSPQ. The TPSQ accomplished for FY 09 was 63 % of the yearly TSPQ estimated for Objective TROB03.

2.1.1.10 Rangeland Resources

Standard RAST01: Maximum forage utilization of representative areas within each pasture shall not exceed the values shown at the end of growing season. Variation in utilization standards in order to achieve specific vegetative management objectives shall occur with a site-specific or project-level decision according to direction in FSM 1922.5.

- a) **Riparian Areas:** Maximum 45 percent use or retain a minimum 4-inch stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first.

- b) **Upland Vegetative Cover Types:** Early season or season long pastures – 40 percent use. Vegetative slow growth, after seed seed ripe conditions, or late season pastures – 50 percent use.

Allotment inspections conducted in 2009 indicate the established utilization rates result in desired ground cover, soil stability, plant vigor, and vegetative composition. Within areas of the Forest that provide critical habitat for ESA –listed fish species, the allowable utilization rates are more stringent than those provided in the Forest Plan. In most areas of the Forest, the criteria for healthy rangelands are being met.

In cattle allotments, small areas within close proximity to reliable water sources, the utilization rates can be exceeded which results in less than desirable conditions in small localized areas. In sheep allotments, the animals are under regular herder control, the established utilization rates have resulted in attainment of the desired rangeland health criteria.

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

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

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

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

2.1.1.11 Lands and Special Uses

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

Right-of-Way Acquisition

In fiscal year 2009, the Forest acquired one trail right-of-way (0.23 mile) and one temporary road right-of-way for a timber harvesting project (0.01 mile). The Forest also verified a right-of-way reservation from a BLM patent deed and updated Forest jurisdiction records.

Conveyance

The Forest conveyed 3 houses on the New Meadows Administrative Site into private ownership in 2009.

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

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

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

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

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

In fiscal year 2009, the Payette NF acquired one temporary road easement from the State of Idaho in the Price Valley area to access a habitat restoration project. The Payette NF granted two temporary permits to landowners hauling commercial timber on Forest Roads.

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

With the accomplishments listed in the previous objective, 3 backlogged cases were eliminated from the Forest's Right-of-Way Plan.

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

In fiscal year 2009, the Southwest Idaho Boundary and Title Management Zone maintained 43.85 miles of previously marked boundary line and surveyed and posted 1.75 miles of new boundary line.

Objective LSOB07: *Maintain land status records.*

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

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

In fiscal year 2009, the Forest resolved four encroachment cases identified through boundary management projects with issuance of special use permits.

2.1.1.12 *Facilities and Roads*

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

Fine scale analysis identifying opportunities to reduce road-related degrading effects was addressed by the Payette NF in two project level environmental analysis documents in fiscal year 2009.

Council District completed the Crooked River Vegetation Management Project Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact (USDA Forest Service September 2009), which identified 1.22 miles of new road construction, 1 mile of temporary road construction, 12.2 miles of road reconstruction and maintenance, and 15 miles of road decommissioning.

Council District completed the Summit Gulch Vegetation Management Project Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact (USDA Forest Service September 2009), which identified 5.1 miles of road reconstruction and maintenance, 1.8 miles of long-term road closure, and 5.7 miles of road decommissioning.

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

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

In fiscal year 2009, the Payette NF:

- Conducted annual Cost Share road maintenance meetings with its cooperator, the State of Idaho, and with Potlatch Corporation, the holder of cost share easements owned by former cooperator Boise Cascade Corporation. The purpose of the meetings was to make efficient use of resources and funds to manage our shared road network and to account for each party's traffic and non-traffic generated use and maintenance obligations. Final road maintenance

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costs for each party were reconciled at the end of 2009 and are on file in the Cost Share Maintenance Agreement records located in the Forest Supervisors Office;

- Executed an amendment to a cost share supplement with the State of Idaho for road reconstruction;
- Terminated and reconciled a long-term Road Right-of-Way Construction and Use Agreement with Boise Cascade Corporation;
- Received a lump sum payment from Potlatch Corporation for accumulated deferred road maintenance charges on Cost Share Roads;
- Terminated two road easements no longer needed by the United States;
- Issued one and extended a second Road Use Permit for commercial use of National Forest System (NFS) roads, collecting lump sum payments for cost recovery and deferred road maintenance;
- Executed multiple Project Supplements to Forest Road Agreements with Valley, Adams, and Idaho Counties for road improvement work;
- Elevated an R.S. 2477 assertion of public road right-of-way to the Washington Office for further processing.

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

Between 2001 and 2005, 100 percent of the system passenger car roads (maintenance levels 3, 4, and 5) were surveyed to determine maintenance needs. Identified maintenance needs were placed into the deferred maintenance backlog in INFRA until such time as they are addressed through future programs of work. One road condition survey of 0.6 miles was completed in fiscal year 2009. This road was selected by the Forest Service's Washington Office using a random sample method.

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

The Payette NF classified road system includes 57 bridges and 3 major culverts (span > 20 ft.), most on a 2-year inspection cycle. Thirteen bridges were inspected in FY 2009 to determine if they support design uses and legal highway limits. Road miles and bridges surveyed are shown in Table 4.

Table 4 Roads and Bridges Surveyed, Fiscal Year 2009

Type of Asset	Total Assets	Surveyed FY09	% Surveyed FY09
Operational ML 3,4,5 Roads (miles)	565	0	0
Operational ML 2 Roads (miles)	1568	0.3	0.02
Operational ML 1 Roads (miles)	806	0.3	0.02
Road Bridges and Major Culverts	60	13	21.7

Source: INFRA Report

In fiscal year 2009, the Payette NF road and watershed crews maintained 347.2 miles of system road, decommissioned 16.7 miles of system road, and obliterated 36.2 miles of unauthorized road. Identified resource and safety hazards were corrected during this maintenance. Table 5 lists those road miles maintained, as reported in the 2009 Payette NF Annual Roads Accomplishment Report (ARAR).

Table 5 Roads Receiving Force Account Maintenance, Fiscal Year 2009

Operational Maintenance Level	Total System Miles (End of FY)	Roads Receiving Maintenance (Miles)	Remarks
1	806.2	51.9	Miles reported are for road closures
2	1568.0	105.1	
3	524.9	190.2	
4	36.2	0	
5	4.0	0	
Total Miles	2,939.3	347.2	
Decommissioned (System)		16.7	
Obliterated (Unauthorized)		36.2	

Source: FY 2009 Payette NF ARAR

In addition to the road miles maintained by the Payette NF, 1.1 miles of road were constructed, 1.5 miles of road were reconstructed, and 1.1 miles of road were maintained during fiscal 2009 by Payette NF timber sale purchasers. These miles are from timber sales awarded in prior fiscal years.

Also, 13 miles of Forest road were maintained by Cost Share Cooperator Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and 7.2 miles by Potlatch Corporation during their 2009 timber sale programs, for a total of 20.2 miles maintained by cost share easement holders.

Identified resource and safety hazards were corrected during the maintenance. Table 6 lists those system road miles constructed and maintained during timber sales as reported in the fiscal year 2009 Payette NF ARAR.

Table 6 Road Miles Maintained by Purchasers and Cooperators, Fiscal Year 2009

Maintained By	Operational Maintenance Level	Construction	Reconstruction	Maintenance
PNF Timber Sale Purchaser	1,2	1.1	1.5	1.1
PNF Timber Sale Purchaser	3	0	0	0
Idaho Department of Lands	2,3	0	0	13.0
Potlatch Corporation	2,3	0	0	7.2
Total Miles		1.1	1.5	21.3

Source: FY 2008 Payette NF ARAR.

No timber sales with specified road work were awarded in fiscal year 2009

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

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

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

The Payette NF completed a Facility Master Plan in 2009. The Facility Master Plan evaluated existing administrative facilities and identified unneeded facilities. Unneeded facilities identified will be evaluated for disposal or decommissioning. Minor changes to building evaluations were made between the approved Facility Master Plan 2009 and the Facility Master Plan 2004 and Amendment #1 to that plan in 2005.

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

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

Council District – Open bottom box culvert on Fawn Creek.

Krassel District - Open bottom box culvert on Nasty Creek and Bridge installation on Parks Creek.

2.1.1.13 Recreation Resources

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

Accomplishment: In 2004 the Forest Fisheries Biologist and Forest Recreation Program Manager identified work to be done at the Chinook Campground to move some of the recreation facilities away from the Secesh River to improve fisheries habitat. This project was completed in 2009 with day use being eliminated from the bank area near the trailhead. The parking area was hardened with gravel, and one overnight use area located near the shoreline was closed and rehabilitated.

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

Accomplishment: The Krassel Ranger District identified several sites (Phoebe Creek and Hamilton Bar) located along the South Fork Salmon River, that are in need of facilities to accommodate existing recreational use of the areas. Environmental assessment and NEPA work began on both projects in 2009 that looked at placing some facilities on these sites to manage recreational use. Facilities considered include parking barriers to control off-road use, fire rings to control use of fire, and sanitation facilities to control the health and safety issues associated with human waste being deposited through these areas because there are no toilets.

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

Accomplishment: The Forest signed the final Council and New Meadows Record of Decision for snow-free travel Management in 2009. This decision was the third of three snow-free travel management decisions for the Forest, and completed the Forest’s obligations to complete travel management under the new Travel Rule. The Forest Public Affairs Officer published a “Highlights of 2009” brochure that was distributed to the public. This publication covered work done with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds for trail improvements in 2009. In addition, the Regional Office funded a Payette National Forest Visitor Guide in 2009 that covered all the Forests Developed Recreation sites, popular trails, and scenic destinations. These visitor guides were distributed throughout the local area for free.

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

Accomplishments: In 2009, as we do every year, we tracked use figures in all of our developed fee campgrounds to gauge our occupancy rates and season of use.

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

Accomplishments: Volunteers contributed over 5000 hours of volunteer work, valued at over ½ million dollars on the forest in 2009. Projects included trail maintenance, developed recreation site work in campgrounds by volunteer campground hosts, kiosk sign projects by Boy Scout troops and many more individual projects that helped the Forest achieve its goal to provide quality recreation on the Payette National Forest. The Forest was able to utilize the Student Conservation Youth Corp and the Northwest Youth Corp to perform valuable services in trail work and wilderness ranger patrol in the Frank Church Wilderness of No Return. The Forest also secured several grants from Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Southwest Idaho RAC, to complete heavy trail maintenance projects.

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

Accomplishments: Accessibility improvements were made at the following campgrounds in 2009:

- Chinook Campground: New accessible Restrooms, water well, overnight campsites with tables and fire rings that are fully accessible.
- Cold Springs Campground: New accessible tables, New accessibility CXT, new graveled and leveled parking site pads. Two fully paved accessible overnight campsites. Two group areas with added accessible features.

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

Accomplishments: The Forest signed the final Council and New Meadows Record of Decision for snow-free travel Management in 2009. This decision was the third of three snow-free travel management decisions for the Forest, and completed the Forest's obligations to complete travel management under the new Travel Rule.

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

Accomplishments: Over 200 miles of snowmobile trails are provided for on the PNF, facilitated by a cost agreement between Valley County, PNF, and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. In 2009 the annual operating plan was reviewed and updated to allow for another year of trail grooming.

The Forest continues to work in conjunction with the Payette Lakes Ski Club to provide over 15 K of groomed Nordic ski trails in the Bear Basin area just outside of McCall. Popular snowmobile trailheads at West Face, and Goose Creek continue to be maintained.

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

Accomplishment: The ongoing Brundage Cat-skiing permit continues to provide for winter back-country recreation without any noted wildlife concerns to date.

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

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

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

Accomplishments: The McCall Ranger District heads up the Payette Avalanche Center and in 2009 was funded to conduct both educational awareness classes and do three forecasts per week on avalanche conditions. Forecasts were posted on the PNF avalanche web page. Educational awareness classes were accomplished by both Payette Avalanche Center – Forest Service employees and Friends of the Avalanche Center partners.

2.1.1.14 Heritage Program

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

- a) The kinds of sites already known and their relative abundance on the Forest;***
- b) Major prehistoric uses;***
- c) Major ethnographic uses;***
- d) Major historic themes;***
- e) The gaps in our knowledge about the prehistory and history of the Forest; and***
- f) Maintain associated databases, atlases, and files on the Forest.***

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

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

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

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

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

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

Between 1975 and 1987 few newly identified historic properties were evaluated using NRHP criteria for determining eligibility. Beginning in 1988 the Heritage Program proactively evaluated each and every newly discovered historic property and thereby no longer added to the backlog of unevaluated historic properties. Since 1988 those historic properties located outside of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness (FC-RONRW) have been evaluated. Beginning in 2004 to 2009 an annual effort has been made to evaluate the previously unevaluated historic properties in the FC-RONRW and this effort will continue for the next three years until all historic property site evaluations have been completed.

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

Since 1988 the curation of artifact collections and records has been on-going. In 2009 all of the American Indian artifacts in the Payette's collections are documented into an electronic record keeping and photographic database. Artifact curation guidelines established by the Smithsonian Institution and the Idaho State Historic Society are used.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Passport in Time, Windows on the Past and selected volunteers annually work with Heritage Program staff. Volunteers usually are involved with some level of archaeological site testing, data

recovery, site survey, monitoring of previously identified historic properties or with the curation collections.

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

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

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

Twenty-four selected historical monographs are available to the public in the foyer of the Supervisor's Office in McCall, Idaho. All of the historical monographs are indexed and are on file in the Supervisor's

Office's Heritage Program. Interested scholars searching for specific historic information have made information requests. Selected historic monographs are available on the Payette National Forest website. Also, the Heritage Program sends selected (rare) historical monographs to the local libraries, special collections libraries at the University of Utah, University of Idaho and to the Idaho State Historical Society.

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

Standard HPST01: Review undertakings that may affect cultural resources to identify potential impacts. Compliance with Sections 106 and 110 of the NHPA shall be completed before the responsible agency official signs the project decision document.

Standard HPST02: Conduct cultural resource inventories in consultation with the appropriate Tribal and State Historic Preservation Offices and other individuals and organizations likely to have knowledge of historic properties in the area.

Standard HPST03: Treat unevaluated cultural resource sites as significant until evaluated for National Register of Historic Places eligibility.

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

Work Completed and Summary of Findings: In 2009, one incident was identified in non-compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and with Forest Plan direction summarized as follows:

Seven federal actions were monitored and listed as follows:

- Warren Wagon Road Hazard Tree Removal PY2008-2143
- Buckhorn Creek Culvert Replacement PY2008-2199
- Phoebe Creek Culvert Replacement PY2008-2192
- Yellow Pine Bar Road 51887 Maintenance PY2008-2170
- North Gray's Creek Road Reroute PY2008-2212
- William's Peak Fire Lookout Repainting PY2008-2187
- Phoebe Creek Dispersed Campground Rock Alignment Barrier PY2009-2307

Six of the seven project reviews were determined to be consistent with project design requirements and NHPA Section 106 compliance was met. Only the Phoebe Creek Dispersed Campground Rock Alignment Barrier was not consistent with project design requirements in that the rock alignment was not used and instead concrete vehicle stops were installed. However, the environmental effects are the same.

2.1.1.15 Tribal Rights and Interests

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

There are three federally recognized American Indian Tribes that have expressed interest in land management resource activities on the Payette National Forest. They include:

- Nez Perce Tribe
- Shoshone – Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall
- Shoshone – Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley

In 1995, Payette National Forest (PNF) created Tribal NEPA Guidelines that describe procedures that apply to projects that may affect Tribal resource values including American Indian sacred sites, traditional cultural properties, American Indian cultural resources, and other Tribal interests.

To be adequate, the NEPA analysis needs to provide to the responsible official sufficient information on Tribal resource values to permit (1) an adequate disclosure of effects upon Tribal resource values, and (2) an informed decision about those effects. These guidelines help achieve that. They list responsibilities, by phase of the NEPA process, which will help ensure legal sufficiency through protection of Tribal resource values.

Tribes are informed about Federal actions with formal letters with project descriptions and maps addressed to each Tribal Chairman with copies to resource specialists. Letters are hand carried and delivered to the Shoshone-Paiute Tribal leaders at the Wings & Roots Formal Tribal consultation. Letters are at times followed up with telephone calls to Tribal resource specialists to inquire about Tribal concerns and issues. If there are concerns and issues, meetings are scheduled for further discussion.

Formal and informal annual meetings have been taking place with the Nez Perce Tribe since 1986. In June 2004, the Payette NF met with the Tribal Executive Committee in Lapwai, Idaho, to discuss, in part, the need to establish a mutual agreed to consultation process protocol that would result in effective coordination of Tribal uses on the PNF, as well as the identification and understanding of Tribal rights and interests that may be affected by proposed activities on the PNF. An additional meeting with the Executive Committee took place in October 2004. As of 2010 the Nez Perce Tribe has a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO). As of February 2010 the Nez Perce THPO has requested to review concurrently all Payette NF Section 106 consultation reports that are sent to Idaho State Historic Preservation Office for review and comment.

Formal and informal meetings with government representatives of the Shoshone – Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley have taken place since 1998. In 2003 the PNF Forest Supervisor invited the Tribes to do direct government-to-government consultation. The Shoshone – Paiute Tribes insisted upon involving a non-Indian middleman in their consultation process. Washington Office has recommended and encouraged doing only government-to-government consultation. The PNF does have a formal agreement in doing the consultation with the Shoshone –Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley. Also, sporadically since 1998, the Shoshone – Paiute Tribes have invited and the Payette NF to attend the “Wings and Roots” consultation process sponsored by the Boise NF.

Government-to-government consultation has taken place sporadically with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall since 1998. The Payette NF does not have a formal agreement on the consultation process with these Tribes. However, the Tribes continue to be informed with letters addressed to the Chairman and resource staff on PNF Federal actions.

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

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

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

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

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

All three tribes are Cooperators in the SEIS for Bighorn Sheep which has been on-going since 2005. The combined team meets regularly and consists of forest staff, wildlife managers and experts from the tribes, the states of Oregon and Washington, and wildlife agencies in Idaho. The Forest Supervisor met with the leadership of all three tribes as formal consultation on the SEIS in 2009. As Cooperators tribal representatives make official comments on the SEIS, and also advise the Forest Supervisor on technical issues related to Bighorn sheep viability and tribal concerns related to the survival of the species on the PNF.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bighorn Sheep SEIS Tribal Cooperative Agreements

Four Tribes are Cooperators in the Draft SEIS for Bighorn Sheep which has been on-going since 2005. The participating Tribes are the Nez Perce, the Shoshone-Paiute, the Shoshone-Bannock, and the Umatilla. The combined team meets regularly and consists of Forest staff, wildlife managers and experts from the Tribes, and the states of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. The Forest Supervisor met with the leadership of all four Tribes as part of formal government to government consultation on the SEIS in 2009. As Cooperators Tribal representatives made official comments on the SEIS, and also advise the Forest Supervisor on technical issues related to Bighorn sheep viability and Tribal concerns related to the survival of the species on the Payette NF.

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

The Payette NF and the Nez Perce Tribe have a memorandum of agreement (MOA) pertaining to the fisheries program which was renewed in 2008. There is another memorandum of understanding (MOU) pertaining to camping without paying fees on the Payette National Forest. The Payette NF and Nez

Perce Tribe also have a Watershed Restoration MOU which is in process. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes have a MOU pertaining to the Wings & Roots Campfire Talks for doing formal consultation. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes were encouraged by the Regional Office in Ogden, Utah to develop a MOA regarding doing formal consultation. However, the Tribes are not comfortable with signing such an agreement with the Forest Service.

2.1.1.16 Wilderness, Recommended Wilderness, and Inventoried Roadless Areas

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

The FCRONRW consists of portions of five National Forests. A FCRONRW Plan was published in 2003 and incorporated into each of the five Forest's Forest Plan. This FCRONRW Management Plan requires its own specific monitoring. Wilderness monitoring is incorporated into the specific FCRONRW monitoring plan and is not duplicated in this monitoring report.

Accomplishment: In 2009 the Krassel and McCall Ranger Districts, and Forest Heritage archeologist accomplished work as identified in the 2003 FCRONRW Management Plan, and Programmatic agreement for managing heritage resources in the FCRONRW. Heritage survey work was accomplished, as was trash clean-up, dispersed campsite monitoring, airstrip monitoring, The FCRONRW has a lead working group and Board of Directors that met several times in 2009 to review plan accomplishments and challenges to work on for the following year.

The Krassel Ranger District employed a crew during the summer and fall seasons that staffed and maintained a wilderness presence at the administrative sites located within the FFCRONRW, including Cold Meadows, Cabin Creek and Chamberlain Guard Stations. These crews completed wilderness patrol and trail maintenance from these stations on a daily basis.

2.1.1.17 Wild and Scenic rivers

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

Accomplishments: South Fork Salmon River (SFSR) was found suitable for Wild and Scenic designation in 2003 and all projects proposed along the river segments on the PNF go through a screening to make sure they do not negatively affect the rivers Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs). SFSR float boaters need a permit to float the river and in 2009 there were 114 permitted floaters in 25 groups. There is no commercial authorized use of the SFSR or the Secesh River.

The Secesh River, also found suitable for Wild & Scenic designation. Currently, one fish weir maintained by the Nez Perce Tribe exists on Lake Creek, and one on the Secesh adjacent to Chinook campground. Idaho State Fish and Game Department operates a fish screw trap along the Secesh River, just below Ponderosa Campground

2.1.1.18 Research Natural Areas

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

In Fiscal Year 2009, the Payette NF continued investigating methodologies for management plans and for changes in management prescriptions (primarily for wildland fire use and prescribed fire) from other Forests.

Visits to Research Natural Areas (RNAs) continued for a better understanding among Forest and other interested personnel on RNA management needs. This included visits to Pony Meadows.

In Fiscal Year 2009 an ongoing contract was implemented with IDFG to conduct monitoring and make recommendations for management needs in RNAs. This included visits to Belvidere, Pony Meadows, Phoebe Meadows, Council Mountain, Cuddy Mountain, and Bruin Mountain

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

In fiscal year 2009, contract work discussion with IDFG included proceeding in the formal establishment of Patrick Butte RNA.

2.1.1.19 Social and Economic

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

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

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

During fiscal year 2009, the Payette NF hosted two YCC crews. Crews helped to accomplish projects across the National Forest while learning about nature and natural resource management. Additionally, the Payette NF utilizes volunteers to host Forest Service campground and clear trails through the Adopt-a-Trail program. Payette NF employees visited local schools to share information to students on forest management, wildlife and fish biology, range ecology and management, and other conservation messages. The Smoky Bear program was active in fiscal year 2009.

The Payette NF worked along with IDPR to apply for grants to improve recreation opportunities on the Payette NF.

Public involvement is essential part of the environmental analysis process. The scale of public involvement is conducted relative to the context of the project. Public involvement can include only a legal notice in the news paper of record for very minor projects to mailings and public meetings for the much larger scale projects. Some level of public involvement, which provides the public an opportunity to participate and comment, occurs for most of our projects. Thirty-three NEPA decisions were made on the Payette National Forest in fiscal year 2009. Public involvement was conducted on all of these projects.

2.1.2 Evaluation of Costs

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

As described in Chapter IV of the Forest Plan, carrying out the intent of the Forest Plan depends on the funding allocated by Congress. During the implementation period of the former Forest Plan (1988-2003), funding was consistently lower than projections for most program areas. Therefore, the 1988 Forest Plan was implemented more slowly than projected. Table 10 compares the actual allocation for fiscal year 2009 with a level predicted based on the 2003 Forest Plan, by program area (fund type).

To predict a more realistic rate of implementation, the budget level used to develop the 2003 Forest Plan for all programs, except forest products and hazardous fuels, was based on average actual budget allocations from 2001 to 2003. Forest products and hazardous fuels reduction were based on a 10 percent increase over average service level constraints from the Forest Service Budget Formulation and Execution System (BFES). Actual allotment by fund code and program emphasis will vary on an annual basis based on Forest and Regional priorities for a given year, as well as on the will of Congress. Table 8 compares the predicted Forest Plan budget level by program area based on average allotment and Budget Formulation and Execution System (BFES), with the actual allotment for fiscal year 2009.

Table 7. Predicted Versus Actual Forest Budget Levels, Fiscal Years 2004 through 2009. (Note. Carryover dollars are not included in the current year allotment.)

Fund Code	Fund Description	Predicted Forest Plan Budget Level	FY04 Actual Allotment	FY05 Actual Allotment	FY06 Actual Allotment	FY07 Actual Allotment	FY08 Actual Allotment	FY09 Actual Allotment	Percent of Forest Plan Predicted Level for FY09
BDBD	Brush Disposal	\$79,510	\$109,262	\$66,404	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$183,500	\$325,000	408%
CMFC/CMII	Facility Construction and Deferred Maintenance	\$632,873	\$612,771	\$366,845	\$662,447	\$447,327	\$308,779	\$108,563	17%
CMRD	Road Construction and Maintenance	\$1,370,254	\$1,270,929	\$1,286,049	\$1,430,598	\$1,264,826	\$1,176,964	\$1,159,575	85%
CMTL	Trail Construction and Maintenance	\$301,219	\$273,269	\$250,895	\$208,443	\$286,736	\$306,986	\$361,045	120%
CMKV	Coop Work, KV	\$1,091,546	\$811,518	\$712,647	\$800,000	\$240,000	\$406,700	\$269,254	25%
NFIM	Inventory and Monitoring	\$442,160	\$460,183	\$586,839	\$369,035	\$514,765	\$663,701	\$527,624	119%
NFLM	Land and Ownership Management	\$308,546	\$267,594	\$216,859	\$192,937	\$172,323	\$200,661	\$182,880	59%
NFMG	Minerals and Geology	\$307,785	\$297,727	\$512,284	\$386,692	\$648,571	\$1,374,152	\$577,806	188%
NFPN	Land Management Planning	\$502,769	\$185,179	\$67,773	\$172,567	\$155,468	\$109,242	\$234,629	47%
NFRG	Grazing Management	\$304,207	\$434,646	\$525,926	\$337,163	\$426,888	\$489,345	\$448,104	147%
NFRW	Recreation / HR / Wilderness	\$733,522	\$741,141	\$851,800	\$931,288	\$805,844	\$808,807	\$841,988	115%
NFTM	Forest Products	\$2,522,000	\$1,858,269	\$2,033,266	\$1,963,927	\$2,673,375	\$2,721,475	\$1,880,624	74%

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Fund Code	Fund Description	Predicted Forest Plan Budget Level	FY04 Actual Allotment	FY05 Actual Allotment	FY06 Actual Allotment	FY07 Actual Allotment	FY08 Actual Allotment	FY09 Actual Allotment	Percent of Forest Plan Predicted Level for FY09
NFWW	Vegetation and Water	\$873,338	\$905,771	\$1,063,720	\$1,846,161	\$1,216,413	\$790,002	\$530,329	61%
NFWF	Wildlife and Fisheries Management	\$555,627	\$455,816	\$447,120	\$802,941	\$488,762	\$442,223	\$528,510	95%
RBRB	Range Betterment	\$33,812	\$31,430	\$45,690	\$42,448	\$64,106	\$30,339	\$61,186	181%
RTRT	Reforestation Trust Fund	\$293,666	\$321,067	\$394,144	\$1,159,809	\$75,310	\$42,500	\$501,300	171%
SSSS	Salvage Sale	\$2,743,302	\$1,749,194	\$921,896	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$150,000	\$239,073	9%
WFHF	Hazardous Fuels	\$1,427,000	\$1,249,727	\$883,167	\$1,641,933	\$1,223,006	\$826,244	\$877,000	61%
WFPR	Fire Preparedness	\$7,322,256	\$6,279,224	\$6,166,000	\$5,311,785	\$7,213,518	\$7,315,527	\$7,915,435	108%
	Total	\$21,845,392	\$18,314,717	\$17,399,324	\$18,575,174	\$18,232,238	\$18,347,147	\$17,569,925	80%

2.1.3 Evaluation of Population Trends

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

Table 9 shows the MIS selected for the 2003 Forest Plan. The primary reason a given MIS was selected is because its population is believed to indicate the effects of management activities. Other factors also contribute to the choice (36 CFR 219.19(a)(1)).

Table 8 Management Indicator Species for the Payette National Forest

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

2.1.3.2 Population Trend Monitoring for Pileated and White-headed Woodpeckers

Information will be updated at a later date.

2.1.4 Evaluation of Watershed Restoration

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

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

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

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

Work Completed and Findings: In FY2009, emphasis was placed on post-fire recovery projects associated with the Cascade Complex and East Zone Complex fires, road obliteration of abandoned roads in the SFSR in cooperation with Nez Perce Tribe Partnership, and road obliteration mitigation for the Little Weiser and Bear Tornado Timber Sales.

Table 9 Accomplishments in ACS Priority Watersheds

Project Name	Subwatershed Name	HUC Number	Acres of Soil and Water Resources Improved	Miles of Road Decom.	WARS Priority	ACS Priority
Bear Tornado EA	Upper Bear Creek	170502010303	11.0	2.2	High	Yes
Mann Cr FEIS	Middle Mann Cr	170501240102	23.0	4.6	Low	No
Burgdorf Road EA	Ruby Meadows	170602081309	8.1	1.6	High	Yes
Burgdorf Road EA	Grouse Creek	170602070304	13.3	2.7	High	Yes
Burgdorf Road EA	Rabbit-Indian	170602070306	11.0	2.2	High	Yes
Burgdorf Road EA	California Creek	170602081303	5.9	1.2	High	Yes

Project Name	Subwatershed Name	HUC Number	Acres of Soil and Water Resources Improved	Miles of Road Decom.	WARS Priority	ACS Priority
Burgdorf Road EA	Fernan-Piah	170602071702	9.1	1.8	High	Yes
Burgdorf Road EA	Schissler	170602071703	10.8	2.2	High	Yes
Burgdorf Road EA	Middle Warren	170602081309	4.4	0.9	High	Yes
Cow-Maverick-Zena CE	Cow-Oompaul	170602081201	45.0	9.0	High	Yes
TOTAL			141.6	28.4		

2.1.5 Evaluation of Compliance with Consultation Requirements

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

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

2.1.5.1 Fisheries Consultation Requirements

In the Table 13, the left hand column briefly summarizes the specific term and condition from the BO, and the right-hand column summarizes how the Forest met or made progress toward that term and condition in 2009.

Table 10 Compliance with Terms and Conditions for Reasonable and Prudent Measures Required by NOAA Fisheries

Terms and Conditions	Compliance in 2009
# 1 – To implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure #1, clarification of local sideboards. the Forest Service shall:	
A. RCAs – Assess effectiveness of floodprone widths	RCA delineation is occurring as part of project development and riparian monitoring. Project development identifies local landslide hazards.
B. Landslide Prone – Stratify by hazard class	Completed as for RCAs
C. Definitions – Identify change to WCIs and potential effects to WCIs over 3 temporal scales	Changes to WCIs and effects over temporary, short-term, and long-term timescales are evaluated as part of project development. Preliminary development of tentative temperature WCIs for redband trout were proposed in 2007.
D. Fire Management – Develop operational resource guidelines prior to 2004 season	For fire, also see TEOB23 above. In fiscal year 2009, no variances from guidelines were identified. No consultations occurred in which limitations on the Forest Service authority needed clarification..
# 2 – To Implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure #2, maintain link between LRMP and Broad-scale restoration/recovery strategies, the Forest Service shall:	
A. IIT – Provide oversight and accountability body linking to IIT	In fiscal year 2009, coordination with the Interagency Implementation Team (IIT) field crews occurred multiple times.
B. In Upper Salmon, SFSR, and Little Salmon - Framework must be in place to implement “likely to adversely affect” actions	Framework has not been completed, but the Forest presented a draft “Framework” document to the NMFS and USFWS in 2008, and the project has been funded for FY11.
# 3 – To Implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure #3, Upper Salmon and South Fork Salmon direction, the Forest Service shall:	
A. Do not increase ECA above 15% in watersheds with ESA-listed anadromous fishes.	In fiscal year 2009, no ECA increases were planned over 15%. See 2009 Bas for discussion of ECA by project. See Project BAs on the Monitoring website.
B. In the South Fork Salmon River (SFSR): 1. Revise the default WCIs to values appropriate for the Subbasin	Completed. See FY 2006 report. Completed. See FY 2006 report.

<p>2. Continue sampling, analysis, and annual reporting of sediment levels.</p>	<p>Sampling occurred in 2007. Data were compiled, analyzed, and 3 reports covering data through 2007 were completed (Nelson 2007, Nelson and Burns 2007; Nelson et al. 2007).</p>
<p>3. Projects must meet criteria if even a negligible likelihood to adversely effect</p>	<p>Actions at Meadow Creek are being monitored to assure that mitigation measures are effective.</p>

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

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

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

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

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

2.1.5.2 Wildlife Consultation Requirements

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

2.2 Monitoring Elements From Table IV-2 of the Forest Plan with Annual Reporting Requirements

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

2.2.1 Safety of Administrative Facilities

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

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

Work Completed and Findings: During 2009, the requirement for inspecting 20% of facilities was met.

2.2.2 Safety of Developed Recreation Sites

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

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

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

2.2.3 Protection of Historic Properties

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

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

See Section 2.1.1.14 Heritage Program in this report.

2.2.4 Watershed Restoration and Conservation Activities

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

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

Work Completed and Findings: In FY 2009, a total of 182.5 acres of watershed improvement acres or 36.5 miles of road obliteration were reported accomplished. A total of 78 percent of the soil and water resource improvement acres and road obliterations were accomplished in high priority WARS watersheds.

Table 11 Watershed and Road Restoration Completed in ACS Priority and Other Subwatersheds

Project Name	Subwatershed Name	HUC Number	Acres of Soil and Water Resources Improved	Miles of Road Decom.	WARS Priority	ACS Priority
Bear Tornado EA	Middle Bear	170502010302	14.0	2.8	Low	No
Bear Tornado EA	Upper Bear Creek	170502010303	11.0	2.2	High	Yes
Mann Cr FEIS	Middle Mann Cr	170501240102	23.0	4.6	Low	No
Mann Cr FEIS	Upper Mann Cr	170501240103	18.5	3.7	Low	No
Grays Creek Fire Salvage EA	Upper Grays Cr	170501241404	3.5	0.7	Low	No
Grays Creek Fire Salvage EA	Fall Cr	170501241305	5.0	1.0	Low	No
Burgdorf Road EA	Ruby Meadows	170602081309	8.1	1.6	High	Yes
Burgdorf Road EA	Grouse Creek	170602070304	13.3	2.7	High	Yes
Burgdorf Road EA	Rabbit-Indian	170602070306	11.0	2.2	High	Yes
Burgdorf Road EA	California Creek	170602081303	5.9	1.2	High	Yes
Burgdorf Road EA	Fernan-Piah	170602071702	9.1	1.8	High	Yes
Burgdorf Road EA	Schissler	170602071703	10.8	2.2	High	Yes
Burgdorf Road EA	Middle Warren	170602081309	4.4	0.9	High	Yes

Project Name	Subwatershed Name	HUC Number	Acres of Soil and Water Resources Improved	Miles of Road Decom.	WARS Priority	ACS Priority
Cow-Maverick-Zena CE	Cow-Oompaul	170602081201	45.0	9.0	High	Yes
TOTAL			182.5	36.5		

2.3 Monitoring Elements for Table IV-2 with Two- and Three-Year Reporting Requirements

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

2.3.1 Management Actions (3 years)

Monitoring Question: Are proposed actions and associated effects being adequately disclosed in NEPA documents?

Indicator: Review of actions on the Quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions

Work Completed and Findings: In FY 2009 the Forest issued 33 NEPA decisions. Only one of those decisions was reversed on appeal, indicating that overall, the Forest is doing a good job of disclosure and complying with the NEPA process. The Forest Quarterly Schedules of Proposed Actions for 2009 can be found at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/payette/projects/index.shtml>

2.3.2 Coordination with Tribes (3 years)

Monitoring Question: Are traditional cultural resources and special interest areas being considered and maintained?

Indicator: Projects within known special interest areas or potentially affecting traditional cultural resources.

Work Completed and Findings: See Section 2.1.1.15 Tribal Rights and Interests in this report.

2.3.3 State and Local Government Participation with the Forest (3 years)

Monitoring Question: Are current processes such as commission appearances, field reviews, etc. meeting coordination needs?

Indicator: Program reviews and personal contacts.

Work Completed and Findings: The Forest is actively involved in coordination with community members affected by Forest management actions. Requests for Cooperating Agency status on Forest project analyses are typically approved. Examples include the Domestic Sheep / Bighorn analysis which was ongoing in 2009 and the Forest Travel Management Plan analysis which concluded in 2009. Also, Forest Line Officers routinely attend local County Commissioner meetings to discuss upcoming Forest projects.

Field reviews and public meetings are held in a wide variety of locations and advertised in regional newspapers to improve access for all potentially interested parties.

2.3.4 Recreation Use Conflicts (3 years)

Monitoring Question: *Are conflicts rising between recreational uses?*

Work Completed and Findings: Recreational conflicts, especially those surrounding winter use were rising on the Forest, thus the push to begin travel planning across the Forest for both summer and winter uses. The Forest began Travel Management planning in 2004 to address some of the most prevalent recreational conflicts that occur in the summer and winter months regarding motorized use, trail use, type of motorized vehicles allowed on which trails/areas, where motorized use can occur, and the time of year the use can occur. The 2009 snow season was average to low in McCall and the surrounding area, but was low to non-existent state-wide. Since the Payette was one of the few areas with snow, that brought more snowmobile users to the Payette, which exacerbated conflicts among motorized and non-motorized users. The Brundage Snow-cat operation continued to submit complaints to the Forest regarding snowmobile tracks covering their back-country use area with tracks, making skiing difficult to impossible for their skier client base. The Forest continued to work on the Winter travel plan decision, due out in 2010.

2.3.5 Dispersed Recreation Use and Distribution (3 years)

Monitoring Question: *What level of use is occurring in dispersed sites and what impacts are occurring to other resource values?*

Work Completed and Findings: This monitoring element pertains for the most part, to dispersed use in the summer months occurring on dispersed sites. The Payette National Forest is known for its dispersed recreation opportunities, both in the summer and in the winter months. Camping impacts are heaviest in July and August from general camping, and in September and October from concentrated hunting use in dispersed areas. ATV use out of these sites has caused numerous ATV created user trails leaving the dispersed sites.

New in 2009, all three newly signed travel management plans have designated areas where dispersed camping is allowed along the designed routes on the Forest. Krassel Ranger District is the most limiting. Recreationists using a motorized vehicle to access their dispersed campsite (more than one vehicle length off road) are limited to using designed sites only. These designated sites are marked on the ground. McCall, New Meadows and Council Ranger Districts are somewhat less restrictive, but do have areas where dispersed camping using a motorized vehicle is limited to designated sites. These sites are marked on the ground, and these areas are displayed on the Motor Vehicle Use Map. Weiser Ranger

District allows dispersed camping using a motorized vehicle, district wide, within 300 feet of the designated road. In all cases, dispersed camping, using a motorized vehicle, is limited to no more than 300 feet off -road.

On the New Meadows/McCall Ranger Districts, impacts to the shorelines of the reservoirs from dispersed camping have continued, but not necessarily increased along Goose Lake road in the Brundage Reservoir/Goose Lake areas. The designation of dispersed sites along portions of Lake Creek in the Burgdorf area has helped the previous damage to riparian areas caused by motorized vehicles driving far off trail to park and camp. The “camping in designated sites only” in the corridor has improved riparian conditions.

Along the popular Smokey Boulder Road, located on the New Meadows Ranger District, some damage to riparian areas along the creeks has been recorded in the heavily used dispersed sites during hunting season. The district implemented a designed site only camping procedure along the Smokey Boulder road in 2009 by signing designated sites, adding fire rings and parking barriers and restrooms to heavily used dispersed campsites. This work was incorporated into the 2009 travel management plan.

2.3.6 Actual Daily and Seasonal Use versus Use Capacity (3 years)

Monitoring Question: *What level of use is occurring in special use areas, including recreation sites (e.g., downhill ski areas)?*

Work Completed and Findings: Daily use is tracked with ticket sales at Brundage Mountain, and use has continued to grow moderately over the past three years. New ski lifts and ski runs are being developed to accommodate continued growth and use at the ski area.

Use has been stable at Little Ski Hill over the past three years, with use increasing at the Bear Basin Nordic area, which was added in 2006 to the Payette Lakes Ski Club permit. This is the only groomed Nordic trail system opportunity on Forest, and is heavily used from November’s first snow thru March. Skier visits at Brundage Mountain Resort for the following years:

In 2009, there were 17 active Outfitter and Guide permits on the Krassel Ranger District and one backcountry lodge resort permit. This number of permits has stayed constant over the past years. McCall has 2 ski area permits and 7 outfitter guide special use permits. This number varies each year, but has remained fairly constant. The Weiser and Council Rangers districts have 2 outfitter and guide permits, one is associated with the Tamarack Resort. The Forest issues approximately 5 temporary recreation use event permits each year, this number has stayed constant over the three year period.

2.3.7 Developed Site Use and Distribution, and Resource Impacts to Sites (3 years)

Monitoring Question: *What level of use is occurring in developed sites and what impacts are occurring to other resource values?*

Work Completed and Findings: Developed Recreation sites on the Forest are experiencing a slight increase in use. Developed Recreation sites consist of both fee sites and non-fee sites. The Forest completed a Recreation Facility Master Plan in 2006 and has begun to implement it with improvements

at almost every fee campground. Improvements have been new CXT restrooms to aid accessibility, new fire rings and tables, which are all accessible, and improvements to water systems. Use figures are as follows:

Krassel Ranger District:

Due to the heavy use during the South Fork fishing season campground use on the district was at a historic high in 2009. Site use days went from 610 in 2004 to over 800 in 2009. Impacts to fisheries, soils and heritage resources are occurring at the non-fee sites at Dead man Bar, Hamilton Bar and the Indian Point due to moderate recreation use, with no formal developed recreation facilities. Plans are in development phases to improve these sites and restrict use to defined areas.

McCall and New Meadows Ranger Districts:

Many site improvements have been completed at the fourteen campgrounds (includes fee and non-fee sites) on these two districts over the past three years using fee receipts and allocated funds. Use has risen slightly at these sites, with main campgrounds 100% full on all weekends and holidays throughout the summer. In 2009 both Chinook and Cold Springs Campgrounds were closed for construction, reducing numbers of site visits slightly district wide in 2009. With the campgrounds opening back up later in the season, use numbers are expected to return and likely rise in 2010.

Council and Weiser Ranger Districts:

Campground collections have steadily increased on the West Zone, approximately 20% per year from 2006-2009. The condition of all campgrounds on the unit improved with facilities being updated and accessibility improved at five recreation fee campgrounds. No harmful effects to resource values have been noted from developed site recreational use at this time.

2.3.8 Level of Trail Maintenance Relative to Trail Use (3 years)

Monitoring Question: *Are trails being maintained for anticipated levels of use?*

Work Completed and Findings: Trails are not being maintained for anticipated levels of use, the budget has been too low over the past 3 years. Instead, only the mainline trails across the Forest are maintained. The public has complained about the lack of trail maintenance. Crews are getting out to maintain and clear trails, but because of past fires, there is a lot of blow down that happens every time the wind comes up, and trails need to be worked 5-6 times per year to remain clear. That work load has caused other, less traveled trails to be neglected. Volunteers and the Idaho State Trail Rangers have helped to keep the mainline motorized trails cleared. Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation provides, free of charge, the State Trail Rangers for a period of time to help clear and maintain motorized trails across the Forest. They are able to clear approximately 150 miles of trail per year on the Forest. In 2009 the Forest accomplished building 2 miles of new trail construction and over 450 miles of trail maintenance using integrated funding measures.

In 2009, \$250,000 in American Recover Re-investment Act funding was spent on improving trails across the Forest using both youth crews and force account crews to complete the work.

2.3.9 Potential Impacts to Visual Resources (3 years)

Monitoring Question: *Are Forest management actions being designed and implemented to meet Visual Quality Objectives?*

Work Completed and Findings: Since losing the Forest Landscape Architect to retirement in 1999, the Boise National Forest LA has been completing the landscape assessments for complex Payette National Forest projects. On simple, non-complex projects, district personnel have been tracking visual impacts of the projects. No formal monitoring of the past three years of projects has been completed. The Forest has not had any substantial timber harvesting projects in the past three years due to litigation and other emergency projects, such as the Bear Tornado Project, so visual resources have not had the need for a full time specialist to monitor projects. This may change in the future if large projects once again come on line.

2.3.10 Stewardship of Historic Properties (3 years)

Monitoring Question: Are historic properties being managed to standard?

Indicator: Condition of historic properties.

Information to be updated at a later date.

2.3.11 Gathering Activities on the Forest (3 years)

Monitoring Question: Are Forest gathering activities resulting in resource depletion (i.e. mushrooms, bear grass, huckleberries)?

Indicators:

- Estimated amount of miscellaneous products collected.
- Reproduction and age class distribution of live plants being collected.

Work Completed and Findings: In 2009, the largest Forest gathering activity continued to be morel mushrooms. Following the wild fires in 2007, a large crop of morel mushrooms occurred in many of the burned areas. The largest crop occurred in FY 2008, followed by a smaller crop in 2009. Mushrooms were picked under both commercial and personal use permit. One commercial permit was sold on the Forest in 2009. Harvest practices required in the permit protected the population from depletion.

2.3.12 Habitat for Threatened, Endangered, Proposed or Candidate (TEPC) species, both plant and animal (2 years)

Monitoring Question: Are management actions providing for, or moving toward the extent of vegetation components necessary to meet the needs of TEPC species?

Indicator: Changes in habitat acres.

Information to be updated at a later date.

2.3.13 Botanical Species of Concern, Watch Species, or Sensitive Species (3 years)

Monitoring Question: Are Forest management actions affecting known Sensitive species or Watch species habitats at the project level?

Indicator: Acres of disturbance of known occupied habitat.

Work Completed and Findings: See Section 2.1.1.6 Botanical Resources in this report.

2.3.14 Soil Productivity (3 years)

Monitoring Question: Are Forest management actions and forest plan direction effectively maintaining or restoring long-term soil productivity?

Indicator: Amount of area in non-detrimentally disturbed condition and Total Soil Resource Commitment (TSRC)

Work Completed and Findings: See Section 2.1.1.3 for accomplishments.

2.3.15 Distribution of Aquatic Ecosystems (3 years)

Monitoring Question: Are management actions maintaining or restoring the distribution, abundance, and habitat quality of management indicator and TEPC species?

Indicator: Identification of Watershed Condition Indicators, tracking presence absence data, acres/miles of occupied habitat, number of strongholds, number of isolated populations as identified in the WARS database.

See Section 2.1.1.3 Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic Resources and Section 2.1.5.1 Fisheries Consultation Requirements in this report.

2.3.16 Landslide Prevention (3 years)

Monitoring Question: Are management actions and forest plan direction effectively preventing management-induced landslides?

Indicator: Changes in frequency/size of landslides stratified by hazard risk classes (low, moderate, and high).

Work Completed and Findings: There were no management induced landslides in FY2009.

2.3.17 Water Quality and Beneficial Use Status (2 years)

Monitoring Question: Are management actions maintaining or restoring water quality to fully support beneficial uses, and native and desired non-native fish species and their habitats over multiple spatial scales?

Indicator: Number of 303(d) streams listed versus de-listed; macro-invertebrate tolerance measures; water quality indicators (e.g. temperature, pH, turbidity)

Information to be updated at a later date.

2.3.18 Aquatic Ecosystems (2 years)

Monitoring Question: Are management actions and forest plan direction effectively maintaining WCIs when currently in the range of desired conditions, and restoring WCIs when outside the range of desired conditions over multiple spatial scales?

Indicator: Changes in watershed, channel and habitat condition and water quality indicators.

See Section 2.1.1.3 Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic Resources and Section 2.1.5.1 Fisheries Consultation Requirements in this report.

2.3.19 Noxious Weed Prevention (3 years)

Monitoring Question: *Are Forest Plan standards and guides effective in preventing establishment of new noxious weed infestations?*

Indicator: Acres of new noxious weed infestations.

Work Completed and Findings: In 2009, Forest weed management crews collected tabular and spatial data on 74 invasive weed sites and uploaded information into the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) corporate database. These weed infestations totaled approximately 460 acres; however, most infestations have light to moderate densities of noxious weeds within them.

Forest Plan standards and guidelines have undoubtedly prevented new infestations of noxious weeds, although the level of prevention is difficult to quantify. For example, standard NPST03 requires all earth-disturbing equipment to be cleaned prior to entry onto and again prior to leaving NFS lands. This standard helps ensure that new sources of weed seeds do not enter or exit the Payette National Forest.

2.3.20 Noxious Weed Containment (3 years)

Monitoring Question: *Are Forest management strategies effective in preventing further expansion of established noxious weed populations?*

Indicator: Acres of known infestation.

Work Completed and Findings: Forest weed management crews treated approximately 455 infestations of noxious weeds in 2009. The objective for management of a minority of these sites was to contain the weeds. For those sites treated with a containment objective, efficacy of treatments were reported most commonly as being between 85-90% effective. The efficacy rate tends to be lower on contain-strategy sites due to their large size and number of plants, which decreases the ability of the treatment crews to locate and apply herbicide to all plants.

2.3.21 Noxious Weed Control and Eradication (3 years)

Monitoring Question: *Are Forest management strategies effective in controlling or eradicating targeted populations of noxious weeds?*

Indicator: Acres of known infestation in management areas identified for eradication or control.

Work Completed and Findings: Forest weed management crews treated approximately 455 infestations of noxious weeds in 2009. The objective for management of the majority of these sites was to control the weeds. For those sites treated with a control objective, efficacy of treatments were reported most commonly as being between 90-95% effective. The efficacy rate tends to be higher on control-strategy sites due to their small size and number of plants, which increases the ability of the treatment crews to locate and apply herbicide to all plants.

2.3.22 Forage Utilization Levels (3 years)

Monitoring Question: *Are established utilization levels providing for desired ground cover, soil stability, plant vigor, and composition?*

Indicator: Field observation/ utilization studies.

Work Completed and Findings: Allotment inspections conducted in 2009 indicate the established utilization rates result in desired ground cover, soil stability, plant vigor, and vegetative composition. Within areas of the Forest that provide critical habitat for ESA –listed fish species, the allowable utilization rates are more stringent than those provided in the Forest Plan. In most areas of the Forest, the criteria for healthy rangelands are being met.

In cattle allotments, small areas within close proximity to reliable water sources, the utilization rates can be exceeded which results in less than desirable conditions in small localized areas. In sheep allotments, the animals are under regular herder control, the established utilization rates have resulted in attainment of the desired rangeland health criteria.

2.4 Project Level Monitoring

During fiscal year 2009, three projects were reviewed by Forest Specialists: Stibnite Mine Reclamation Work (ongoing); Two New Meadows Ranger District Timber Sales – Squirrelly Billy and Meadows Slope 2, and associated road rehabilitation work. Documentation of the field reviews is available in the FY2009 monitoring project record.

3 Monitoring and Evaluation Report timing

The 2009 Monitoring and Evaluation report documents and discloses the activities from fiscal years 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 (October 2004 – September 2009). The Payette NF will continue to issue the Forest Plan Monitoring and Evaluation reports by September of the following year. Each year's report describes findings from monitoring data collected through the prior year's field season compiled and evaluated during the winter of the reporting year.

Each Forest Plan Monitoring and Evaluation report is intended to be a "living" document, meaning information displayed in the 2009 report will be added to the 2010 report. Much of what is learned from monitoring and evaluation is based on how things evolve from year to year, rather than what is learned at a single point in time. For example, trends and answers to several of the questions in Forest Plan Table IV-1 and Table IV-2 become clearer with the accumulation of annual data. .

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5 Acronyms and References

Acronyms

ACS - Aquatic Conservation Strategy

AMS - Airshed Management System

ARAR - Annual Roads Accomplishment Report

ASQ - Allowable Sale Quantity

ATV - All Terrain Vehicle

BA – Biological Assessment

BAER – Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation

BFES - Budget Formulation and Execution System

BLM - Bureau of Land Management

BO – Biological Opinion

COGS – Columbian ground squirrel

CWMA - Coordinated Weed Management Area

DN - Decision Notice

EA - Environmental Assessment

EIS – Environmental Impact Statement

Forest Plan – Payette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

EPA - Environmental Protection Agency

ESA - Endangered Species Act

FCRONR - Frank Church River of No Return

FMP - Facility Master Plan

FONS I - Finding of No Significant Impact

FRTA - Forest Roads and Trails Act

FSM/FSH – Forest Service Manual/Handbook

FY – Fiscal Year

GSA – General Services Administration

GIS – Geographic Information System

ICBEMP - Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project

ICDC - Conservation Data Center

ID - Interdisciplinary

IDEQ - State of Idaho, Department of Environment Quality

IDFG - Idaho Department of Fish and Game

IDL - Idaho Department of Lands

IDPR - Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

IDWR - Idaho Department of Water Resources

IIT - Interagency Implementation Team

MIS - Management Indicator Species

MMBF - Million board feet

MOA - Memorandum of Agreement

MOU - Memorandum of Understanding

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NAAQS - National Ambient Air Quality Standards

NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act

NIDGS - northern Idaho ground squirrel

NF – National Forest

NFMA – National Forest Management Act

NFS - National Forest System

NHPA - National Historic Preservation Act

NMFS - National Marine Fisheries Service

NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NOI - Notice of Intent

NRHP - National Register of Historic Places

NRIS - Natural Resource Information System

ORV - Outstandingly Remarkable Values

PNW - Pacific Northwest

SHPO - State Historic Preservation Office

SWRA - Soil, Water, Riparian, Aquatic

RAC - Resource Advisory Committee

RAP - Road Analysis Process

RCA - Riparian Conservation Area

RNA – Research Natural Area

ROD - Record of Decision

TEPC – Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, or Candidate Species under ESA

TMDL - Total Maximum Daily Loads

TSPQ - Total Sale Program Quantity

TSRC - Total Soil Resource Commitment

USDA – United States Department of Agriculture

USDA-APHIS - USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

USFS - US Forest Service

USFWS - US Fish and Wildlife Service

WAG - Watershed Advisory Groups

WARS - Watershed and Aquatic Recovery Strategy

WCI - Watershed Condition Indicator

WCS - Wildlife Conservation Strategy

WFU - Wildland Fire Use

WS - Wildlife Services

WUI - Wildland Urban Interface

WWW – World Wide Web

YCC - Youth Conservation Crews

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