

United States

Department of

Agriculture

Forest Service

Intermountain Region

*2010 Annual Monitoring Report*

*Payette National Forest*

*Land and Resource Management Plan*



**2010 Payette NF Monitoring and Evaluation Report**

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## **2010 MONITORING REPORT**

### **PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**JULY 2011**

## **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.

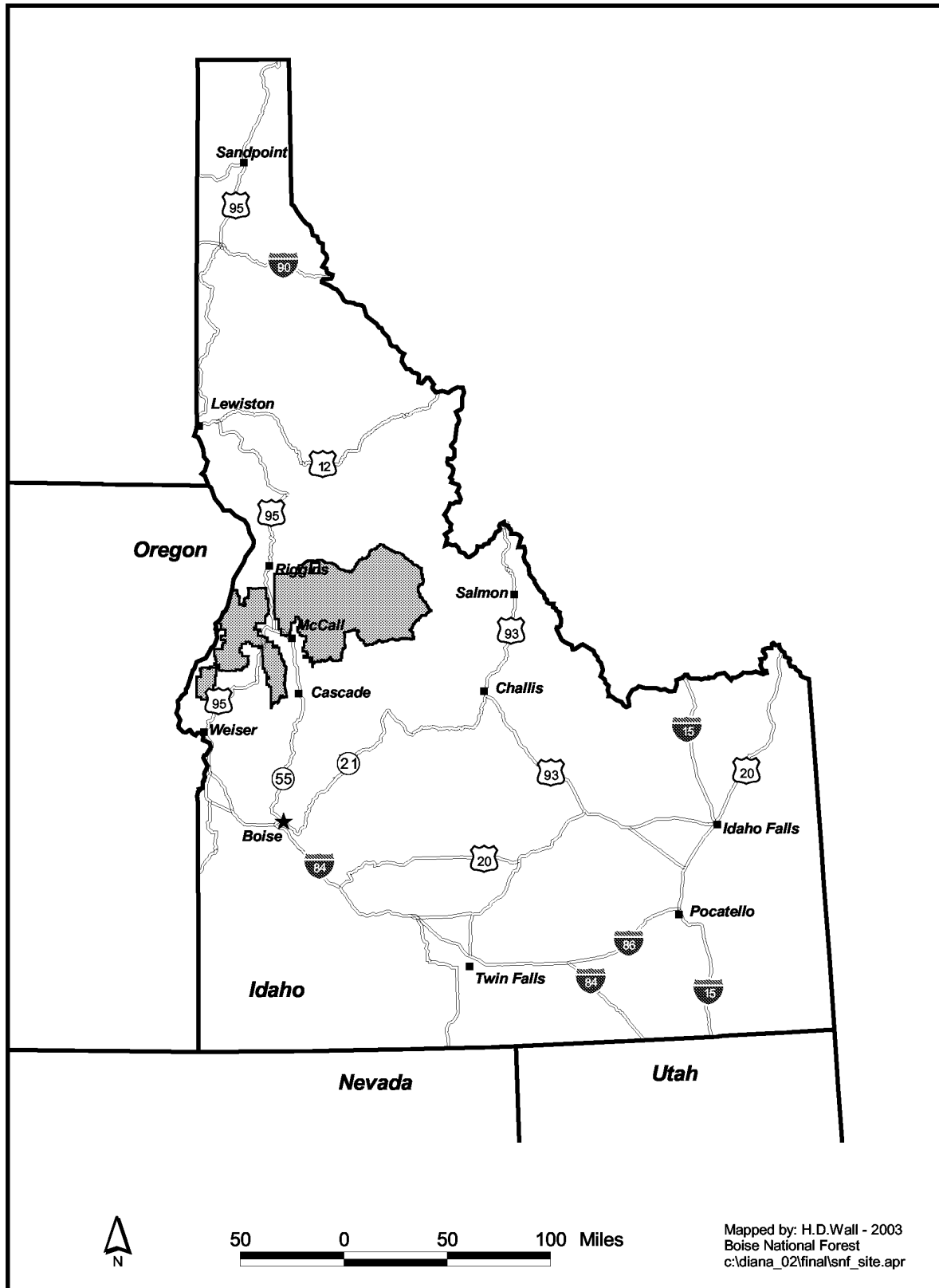
After implementation of the 1988 Forest Plan, it was evident that forest plans need to be dynamic to account for changes in resource conditions such as large scale wildfire or listing of additional species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), new information, and changed regulation and policies such 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, 2009 and 2010, with only 11,700 acres consumed by wildfire in 2008, 610 acres in 2009, and 1,274 acres in 2010 (USDA Forest Service 2010). This Monitoring and Evaluation

***2010 Payette NF Monitoring and Evaluation Report***

Report reflects the seventh full year of implementing the revised Forest Plan. It reports Forest monitoring activities and accomplishments for fiscal year 2010, which was from October 2009 through September 2010. In addition to this annual report of monitoring results which has been completed for each full year of plan implementation, the Forest has completed a Five-Year Evaluation Report summarizing the results of the first five years of monitoring on the 2003 Forest Plan. All of the monitoring reports are available on the Payette National Forest web site at: [www.fs.usda.gov/payette](http://www.fs.usda.gov/payette)

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 seventh 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.

## **1.3 Applying Forest Plan Monitoring and Evaluation**

There are three types of monitoring described for Forest management:

- **Implementation monitoring.** This includes periodic monitoring of project activities to determine if they have been designed and carried out in compliance with Forest Plan direction and management requirements.
- **Effectiveness monitoring.** This level of monitoring is used to determine if management activities are effective in achieving the Desired Future Condition described for each of the various management areas.
- **Validation monitoring.** This level of monitoring is used to determine whether initial data, assumptions, and coefficients used in the development of the Forest Plan are correct, or if there is a better way to meet Goals and Objectives and Desired Future Conditions.

This report focuses on implementation and effectiveness monitoring. 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, then the Forest Supervisor will determine if a “need for change” exists, 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 discusses the five evaluation elements listed in **Table IV-1** of the Forest Plan, “Forest Plan Evaluation Expectations” which are reported annually. 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. Forest monitoring efforts are focused on meeting these reporting requirements, however, the amount of monitoring actually done for each element is a function of available funding.

Section 2.2 describes the project level monitoring completed in 2010. This monitoring collects some of the information needed to address monitoring elements in Table IV-2.

## **2 2010 Monitoring and Evaluation**

### **2.1 Annual Evaluation Results**

#### **2.1.1 Monitoring requirements identified in the forest plan shall provide for a quantitative estimate of performance comparing outputs and services with those projected by the forest plan**

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 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. Because this is the seventh year of monitoring of the forest plan, those monitoring elements from Table IV-2 of the forest plan which have annual reporting requirements are discussed.

#### **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 2010, the requirement for inspecting 20% of facilities was met.

#### **Safety of Developed Recreation Sites**

**Monitoring Question:** *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.

### **Protection of Historic Properties During Project Implementation**

**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).

**Work Completed:** In 2010, the Heritage Program reviewed 98 federal actions for their potential to affect historic properties. The majority of these 98 Federal actions were consulted upon with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and with the three Tribes of southern Idaho the Payette NF does consultation with. Some Federal actions including the reviews for the installation of solar arrays on historic fire lookouts required on-going consultation with Idaho SHPO. The Idaho SHPO sometimes have requests for additional information or had stipulations for monitoring requirements to be completed and reported on during following year(s). Variables in completing some federal actions depended upon annual funding or changing priorities. Some SHPO comments were returned with requests to provide additional information. Some proposed federal actions had adverse effect determinations requiring ongoing consultation and mitigation measures to resolve the adverse effects.

**Summary of the Findings:** FY2010 projects implemented on the Payette NF with and without historic properties received formal reviews and consultation with the Idaho SHPO. Federal actions containing American Indian archaeological sites also required consultation with the three Tribes of southern Idaho. Nearly all projects with cultural resources were monitored during or after implementation. Project implementation in 2010 where there was technical and formal consultation caused no effects to historic properties. However, one Federal action proceeded without any level of communication with the Heritage Program and therefore was not compliant with the National Historic Preservation Act, and was not consistent Forest Plan direction for heritage resources. This Federal action at Soldier Bar Airfield had the potential to violate the Archaeological Resources Protection Act.

Soldier Bar Airfield was constructed in circa 1934 at the scene of the 1879 Sheepeater War. The airfield construction missed a portion of the historic property. At Soldier Bar the soldiers burned a Northern Shoshone village of 10 wickiups and had a skirmish with the Indians. This historic property was scheduled for evaluation in honoring the programmatic agreement (PA) between four National Forests that manage the wilderness and with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office. Reference Heritage File: **PY2003-1685**. In 2009 the Forest hired contractors to move earth for filling in wheel ruts on the airfield landing strip. The earth moving activity

in the area of this historic property had the potential to result in a violation of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA).

This potential ARPA violation was investigated in September 2010. The results of the investigation showed that the location where the contractors were removing soil was not in the area of the historic property and they caused no damage to this historic property. Reference Heritage File: **PY2011-2490 Soldier Bar Historic Property Evaluation**, and **Forest Service Law Enforcement Incident #8062649**.

**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 2010, a total of 260 acres of watershed improvement acres or 52 miles of road obliteration were reported accomplished. A total of 54 percent of the soil and water resource improvement acres and road obliterations were accomplished in high priority WARS watersheds.

**Table 1 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 |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Travel Management EIS                   | Summit Creek-Secesh River | 170602080502 | 40                                         | 8                    | High          | No           |
| Travel Management EIS                   | Victor Creek-Secesh River | 170602080503 | 10                                         | 2                    | High          | No           |
| Cow-Maverick-Zena CE                    | Zena Creek-Secesh River   | 170602080507 | 90                                         | 18                   | High          | No           |
| Little Weiser Vegetation Management EIS | Anderson Creek            | 170501240701 | 20                                         | 4                    | Mod           | Yes          |

| Project Name                            | Subwatershed Name         | HUC Number   | Acres of Soil and Water Resources Improved | Miles of Road Decom. | WARS Priority | ACS Priority |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Little Weiser Vegetation Management EIS | Upper Little Weiser River | 170501240701 | 40                                         | 8                    | Mod           | No           |
| Gaylord North EAA                       | Beaver Creek-Weiser River | 170501240202 | 40                                         | 12                   | Low           | No           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                            |                           |              | <b>240</b>                                 | <b>52</b>            |               |              |

**Botanical Resources**

**Objective BTOB04:** *Maintain annually a list of Forest Watch plants that identify species of concern (see Table 2 for a list of species).*

Updated rare species status lists from the Regional Forester and Natural Heritage Programs were used to make changes in global and state status of rare plants found on the Payette.

Table 2 Federal, State, and Forest Service Status of Rare Plant Species with Potential or Known Habitat on the Payette National Forest

| Species Name                                        | Common Name             | Global <sup>1</sup> | State <sup>2</sup> | Forest Service Status <sup>3</sup> |          | Global Distrib. <sup>4</sup> |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|
|                                                     |                         |                     |                    | Regional                           | PNF Plan |                              |
|                                                     |                         |                     |                    | Sensitive                          |          |                              |
| <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>nubilus</i> | bent flowered milkvetch | G4/T? <sup>5</sup>  | 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 <sup>1</sup> | State <sup>2</sup> | Forest Service        |          | Global<br>Distrib. <sup>4</sup> |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
|                                                        |                           |                     |                    | Status <sup>3</sup>   |          |                                 |
|                                                        |                           |                     |                    | Regional<br>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><br><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                              |

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| Species Name                                        | Common Name             | Global <sup>1</sup> | State <sup>2</sup> | Forest Service Status <sup>3</sup> |          | Global Distrib. <sup>4</sup> |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|
|                                                     |                         |                     |                    | Regional                           | PNF Plan |                              |
|                                                     |                         |                     |                    | Sensitive                          |          |                              |
| <i>Polystichum kruckebergii</i>                     | Kruckeberg's Sword-fern | G4                  | S2                 | N                                  | W        | re                           |
| <i>Ribes wolfii</i>                                 | Wolf's current          | 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>Sedum valens</i>                                 | Canyon sedum            | G2S2                |                    |                                    |          |                              |
| <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                           |

<sup>1</sup>Global - Global ranking as assigned by Natural Heritage Program and Idaho Native Plant Society. **T** = Threatened, **C** = Candidate.

<sup>2</sup>State - Idaho State ranking, **SH** = State Historical Occurrence, **S1** = State critically imperiled, **S2** = State Imperiled. <sup>3</sup>Forest Service

Status - **S** = Region 4 Sensitive, **W** = Forest Watch plants, **N** = No current status. <sup>4</sup>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, circum

### **2.1.2 Documentation of costs associated with carrying out the planned management prescriptions as compared with costs estimated in the forest plan**

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 2 compares the actual allocation for fiscal year 2010 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 2 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 2010.

**Table 3. Predicted Versus Actual Forest Budget Levels, Fiscal Years 2004 through 2010. (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 | FY10 Actual Allotment | Percent of Forest Plan Predicted Level for FY10 |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| BDBD      | Brush Disposal                                 | \$79,510                           | \$109,262             | \$66,404              | \$115,000             | \$115,000             | \$183,500             | \$325,000             | \$200,000             | 251%                                            |
| CMFC/CMII | Facility Construction and Deferred Maintenance | \$632,873                          | \$612,771             | \$366,845             | \$662,447             | \$447,327             | \$308,779             | \$108,563             | \$179,754             | 28%                                             |
| 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           | \$1,122,884           | 82%                                             |
| CMTL      | Trail Construction and Maintenance             | \$301,219                          | \$273,269             | \$250,895             | \$208,443             | \$286,736             | \$306,986             | \$361,045             | \$306,177             | 101%                                            |
| CMKV      | Coop Work, KV                                  | \$1,091,546                        | \$811,518             | \$712,647             | \$800,000             | \$240,000             | \$406,700             | \$269,254             | \$360,800             | 33%                                             |
| NFIM      | Inventory and Monitoring                       | \$442,160                          | \$460,183             | \$586,839             | \$369,035             | \$514,765             | \$663,701             | \$527,624             | \$542,750             | 123%                                            |
| NFLM      | Land and Ownership Management                  | \$308,546                          | \$267,594             | \$216,859             | \$192,937             | \$172,323             | \$200,661             | \$182,880             | \$212,883             | 69%                                             |
| NFMG      | Minerals and Geology                           | \$307,785                          | \$297,727             | \$512,284             | \$386,692             | \$648,571             | \$1,374,152           | \$577,806             | \$551,436             | 179%                                            |
| NFPN      | Land Management Planning                       | \$502,769                          | \$185,179             | \$67,773              | \$172,567             | \$155,468             | \$109,242             | \$234,629             | \$53,697              | 11%                                             |
| NFRG      | Grazing Management                             | \$304,207                          | \$434,646             | \$525,926             | \$337,163             | \$426,888             | \$489,345             | \$448,104             | \$492,876             | 162%                                            |
| NFRW      | Recreation / HR / Wilderness                   | \$733,522                          | \$741,141             | \$851,800             | \$931,288             | \$805,844             | \$808,807             | \$841,988             | \$788,785             | 108%                                            |
| NFTM      | Forest Products                                | \$2,522,000                        | \$1,858,269           | \$2,033,266           | \$1,963,927           | \$2,673,375           | \$2,721,475           | \$1,880,624           | \$1,892,452           | 75%                                             |
| NFVW      | Vegetation and Water                           | \$873,338                          | \$905,771             | \$1,063,720           | \$1,846,161           | \$1,216,413           | \$790,002             | \$530,329             | \$756,518             | 87%                                             |

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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 | FY10 Actual Allotment | Percent of Forest Plan Predicted Level for FY10 |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| NFWF      | Wildlife and Fisheries Management | \$555,627                          | \$455,816             | \$447,120             | \$802,941             | \$488,762             | \$442,223             | \$528,510             | \$611,206             | 110%                                            |
| RBRB      | Range Betterment                  | \$33,812                           | \$31,430              | \$45,690              | \$42,448              | \$64,106              | \$30,339              | \$61,186              | \$30,955              | 92%                                             |
| RTRT      | Reforestation Trust Fund          | \$293,666                          | \$321,067             | \$394,144             | \$1,159,809           | \$75,310              | \$42,500              | \$501,300             | \$73,897              | 25%                                             |
| SSSS      | Salvage Sale                      | \$2,743,302                        | \$1,749,194           | \$921,896             | \$200,000             | \$200,000             | \$150,000             | \$239,073             | \$200,000             | 7%                                              |
| WFHF      | Hazardous Fuels                   | \$1,427,000                        | \$1,249,727           | \$883,167             | \$1,641,933           | \$1,223,006           | \$826,244             | \$877,000             | \$1,093,257           | 77%                                             |
| WFPR      | Fire Preparedness                 | \$7,322,256                        | \$6,279,224           | \$6,166,000           | \$5,311,785           | \$7,213,518           | \$7,315,527           | \$7,915,435           | \$7,374,976           | 101%                                            |
|           | <b>Total</b>                      | <b>\$21,845,392</b>                | <b>\$18,314,717</b>   | <b>\$17,399,324</b>   | <b>\$18,575,174</b>   | <b>\$18,232,238</b>   | <b>\$18,347,147</b>   | <b>\$17,569,925</b>   | <b>\$16,845,303</b>   | <b>77%</b>                                      |

**2.1.3 Population trends of the management indicator species will be monitored and relationships to habitat changes determined**

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

Table 3 shows the MIS selected for the 2003 Forest Plan. The primary reason MIS are selected is because the species population is believed to indicate the effects of management activities. Other factors also contribute to the choice (36 CFR 219.19(a)(1)).

**Table 4 Management Indicator Species for the Payette National Forest**

| Type         | Common Name              | Habitat <sup>1</sup>                                                                | Management Concerns                                                                                                 |
|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bird Species | Pileated Woodpecker      | Large tree size class in moderate and high canopy cover class in in PVGs 2, 3, 5, 6 | Sufficient large trees, snags, and down logs                                                                        |
|              | White-headed Woodpecker* | Large tree size class in low canopy cover class in PVGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 6               | 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 |

**Population Trend Monitoring for Pileated and White-headed Woodpeckers**

The monitoring strategy used by the Forest from 2004 through 2007 was based on standardized bird monitoring methods (i.e., Hamel et. al. 1996 and Ralph et. al. 1993). In 2008, the Forest determined that a revised study design was needed to better monitor MIS species. Vicki Saab, FS Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS) biologist, worked with us in 2008 and 2009 to revise our monitoring techniques. Revised techniques and results through 2009 are summarized here. The entire study report is available upon request.

Goals of the study were to continue analysis and evaluation of monitoring methods implemented during 2008 and 2009 and to suggest refinements for increased effectiveness and efficiency in a long-term monitoring effort. Specific objectives were to 1) evaluate the effectiveness of playback calls versus point counts for detecting pileated and white-headed woodpeckers, 2) estimate the probability of occupancy (proportion of area occupied) for each species in areas classified as potential white-headed or pileated woodpecker habitat, and 3) assess the effect of habitat covariates on detection and/or occupancy.

Seventy of the 71 transects surveyed for pileated and white-headed woodpeckers during 2008 continued to be sampled in 2009. An additional 2 transects were established in burned forest areas to improve likelihood of detecting white-headed woodpeckers. A subset of the 72 total transects received repeat visits (~ 5 visits each) to estimate detection probability, which is used to adjust occupancy estimates. Both [silent] point count and playback detection methods were used and distance to detected individuals was recorded as  $\leq 50$  or  $>50$ m.

Thirty-three white-headed woodpeckers and 219 pileated woodpeckers were detected between 13 April and 25 June 2009. Naïve estimates of occupancy (percent of transects occupied) using both detection methods and distance classes was 0.14 for white-headed woodpeckers and 0.65 for pileated woodpeckers. Occupancy estimates, adjusted for constant detection probability across all sites using both detection methods and distance intervals, was 0.42 (SE = 0.18) for white-headed woodpeckers and 0.95 (SE = 0.14) for pileated woodpeckers.

Analysis of occupancy by method and distance class was hindered by sparse data and qualities of the double sampling study design. However, the emerging pattern suggested that the playback detection method is more effective than point counts, particularly for white-headed woodpeckers. Additionally, detections in the  $\leq 50$ m distance interval were more reliable and resulted in less model uncertainty in model selection analyses. Consequently, the playback detection method and  $\leq 50$ m distance interval is recommended for future sampling.

With improved sampling design (more transects with repeat visits), estimation of occupancy and/or detectability is expected to improve. However, overall occupancy estimates (combined detection methods and distance intervals) for pileated woodpecker from 2008 (0.66) and 2009 (0.67) are similar and rather high, suggesting widespread pileated woodpecker occurrence. Thus, if effort must be limited during monitoring, reduction in sampling intensity of pileated transects may be considered.

### **Recommendations**

- The current level of sampling effort (72 transects) across the forest is likely adequate and additional transects are not indicated at this time.
- Use “Playback method” only. The playback method was very effective for pileated woodpeckers and can provide sufficient detections of white-headed woodpeckers for occupancy analysis.
- Sample the 0-50m distance category only. This reduces sampling outside target habitat and reduces chances of false-positive detections.
- To reduce costs and time, consider sampling every other survey station on pileated woodpecker transects.
- Repeat sampling of all transects is important. Use 3 repeat surveys on each transect in white-headed woodpecker habitat to improve ability to detect changes in occupancy over time. Some transects in designated pileated habitat (up to 5%) may be surveyed once without substantial influence on the occupancy analysis.
- Survey begin and end dates (mid-April to end of June) appear to be appropriate.

## **Population Trend Monitoring for Bull Trout**

Population monitoring information for bull trout can be found in the following reports on the website for this publication:

- *A Watershed-Scale Monitoring Protocol for Bull Trout (2009)*
- *Fisheries Monitoring Results: 2006-2009*
- *A Summary of Biological Surveys on the West Zone of the Payette National Forest (2009)*

## **Accomplishment of ACS priority subwatershed restoration objectives**

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 (Interior Columbia River Basin Ecosystem Management Plan) 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).

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 FY2010, emphasis was placed on post-fire recovery projects on 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 Timber Sales. Anderson Creek located in the Little Weiser River Subwatershed contains Bull Trout and is an ACS subwatershed.

**Table 5 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 |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Little Weiser Vegetation Management EIS | Anderson Creek    | 170501240701 | 20.0                                       | 4.0                  | Mod           | Yes          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                            |                   |              | <b>20.0</b>                                | <b>4.0</b>           |               |              |

**2.1.4 Terms and conditions or reasonable and prudent measures that result from consultation under Section (a) of the Endangered Species Act**

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.

**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 2010. These requirements are measures to protect fisheries from some actions that the Forest Plan allows.

**Table 6 Compliance with Terms and Conditions for Reasonable and Prudent Measures Required by NOAA Fisheries**

| Terms and Conditions                                                                                                                                               | Compliance in 2010                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b># 1 – To implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure #1, clarification of local sideboards. the Forest Service shall:</b>                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 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                                                                                  | In fiscal year 2010, no variances from guidelines were identified. No consultations occurred in which limitations on the Forest Service authority needed clarification.                                                       |
| <b># 2 – To Implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure #2, maintain link between LRMP and Broad-scale restoration/recovery strategies, the Forest Service shall:</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| A. IIT – Provide oversight and accountability body linking to IIT                                                                                                  | In fiscal year 2010, 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.                                                              |
| <b># 3 – To Implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure #3, Upper Salmon and South Fork Salmon direction, the Forest Service shall:</b>                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| A. Do not increase ECA above 15% in watersheds with ESA-listed anadromous fishes.                                                                                  | In fiscal year 2010, no ECA increases were planned over 15%. See 2010 Bas for discussion of ECA by project. See Project BAs on the Monitoring website.                                                                        |
| B. In the South Fork Salmon River (SFSR):<br><br>1. Revise the default WCIs to values appropriate for the Subbasin                                                 | Completed. See FY 2006 report.<br><br>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.

**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 Project Level Monitoring**

During fiscal year 2010 the following projects and activities were assessed (records available on request):

- Monitoring Road Decommissioning in the Mann Creek Watershed: Post-storm Report. Payette National Forest
- Payette National Forest 2010 Annual Fire Report

## **3 Need for Change**

The Forest Supervisor has determined that the following items need to be updated to respond to changing conditions:

- Definitions may need to be updated for range, fuels, and road management; and
- Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines have been updated to incorporate the amendment for domestic and bighorn sheep management, and monitoring requirements related to this decision have been added.

In addition to the above, the Forest is also proposing to modify, delete, and add to current Forest Plan direction in response to new information and / or changed conditions concerning wildlife habitat. This effort is called the “Wildlife Conservation Strategy” or WCS. The Payette issued a draft EIS with draft revised Forest Plan direction in January 2011. A final EIS and decision are expected towards the end of 2012.

## **4 Monitoring and Evaluation Report Timing**

The 2010 Monitoring and Evaluation report documents and discloses the activities from fiscal years 2004 through 2010 (October 2004 – September 2010). 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 2010 report will be considered part of the 2011 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. .

## 4 List of Preparers

These are the members of the Payette National Forest interdisciplinary team who developed this monitoring report.

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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

## **2010 Payette NF Monitoring and Evaluation Report**

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