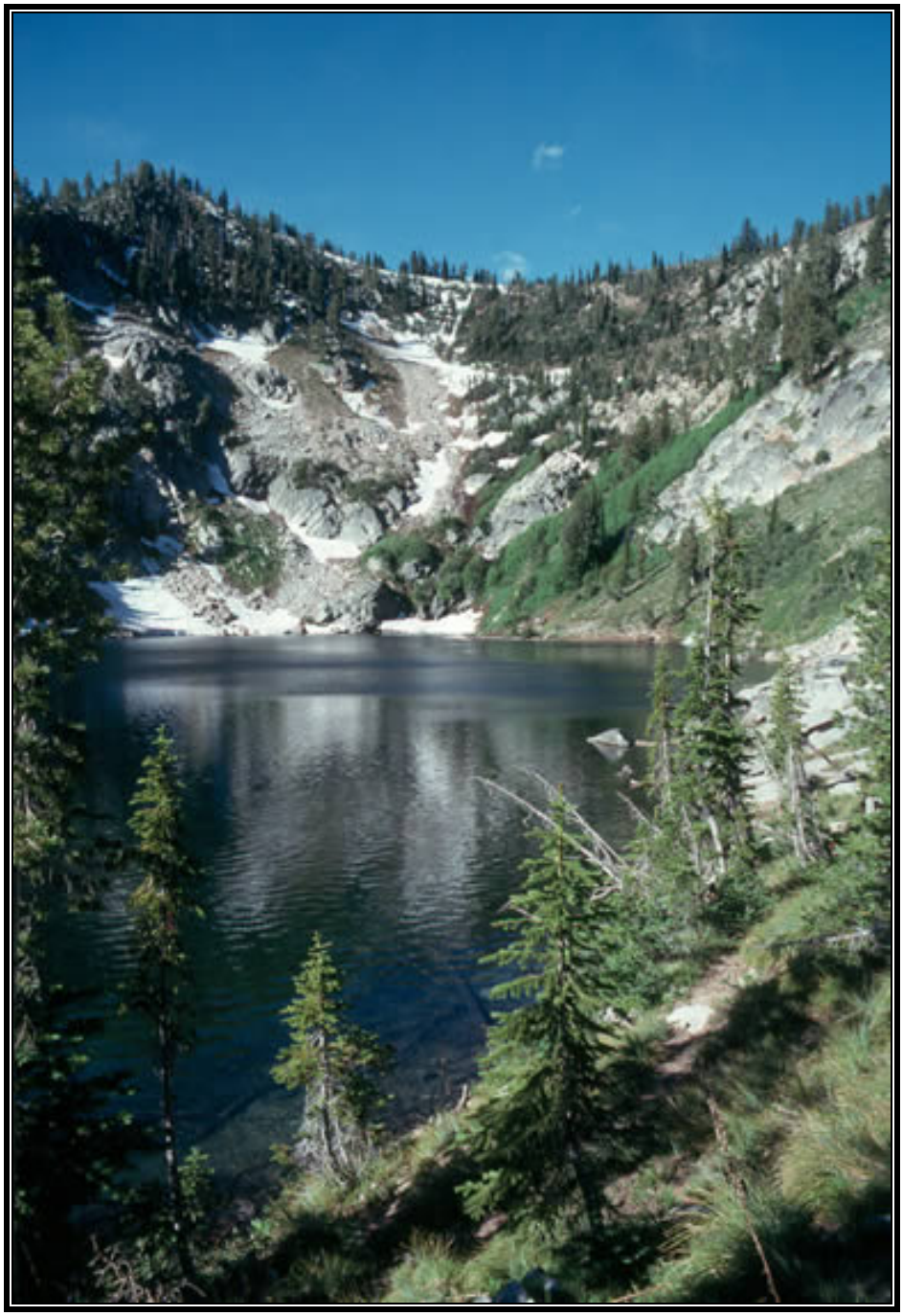
2006 MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT

Payette National Forest
Land and Resource Management Plan
September 2008



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2006 MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT

PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST
LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

SEPTEMBER 2008

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—with district headquarters in Council, Weiser, New Meadows, and two in McCall.

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 National Forest (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 Forest Plan (hereafter also called the Forest Plan) went into effect September 7, 2003. The Plan defines a strategy for the next 10-15 years. It 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. It also lists monitoring requirements.

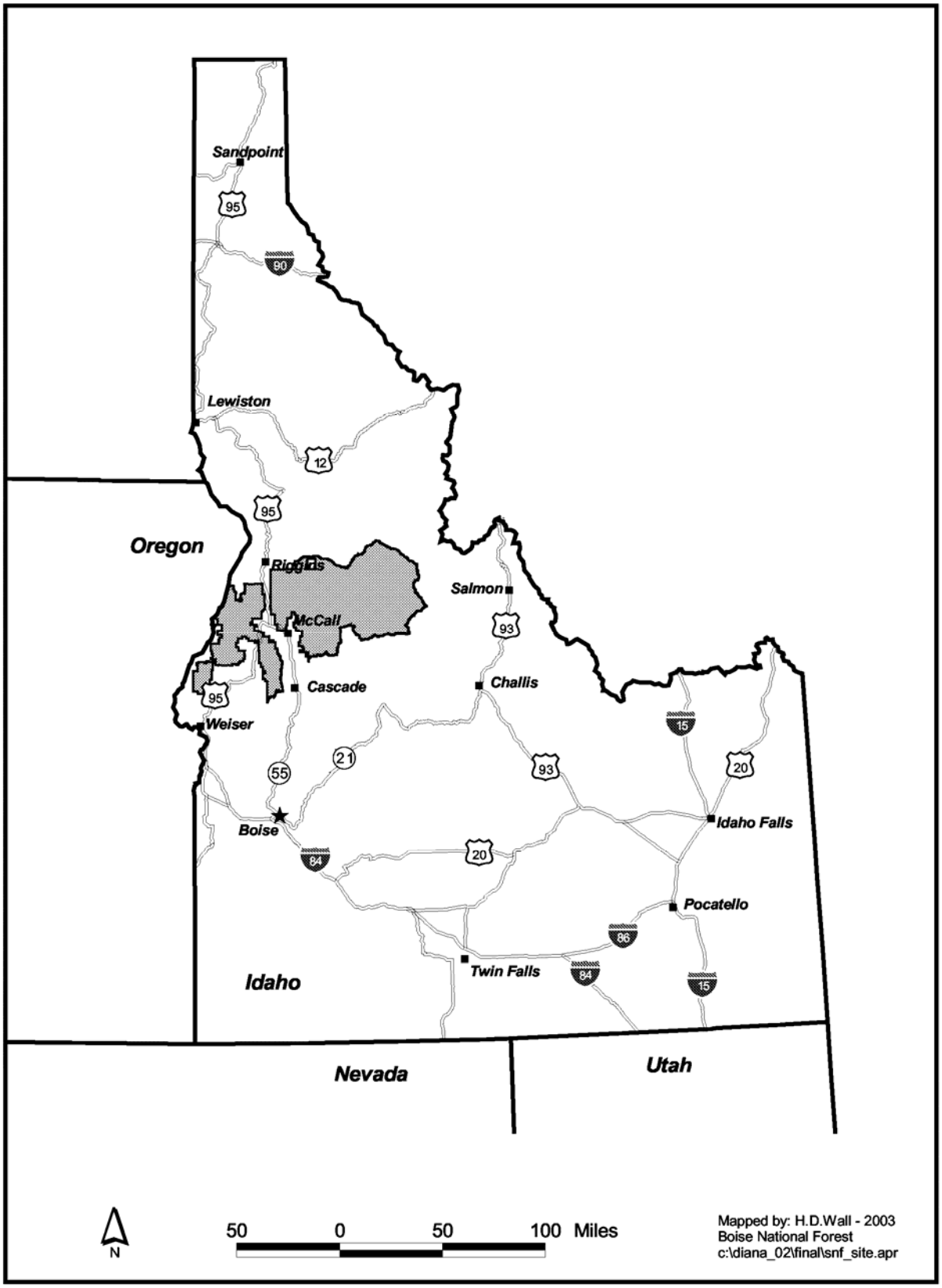
The Forest Plan Record of Decision was appealed in 2003. In March 2005, the Regional Forester was held on all issues except on the decision to implement the direction found in the revised Plan regarding bighorn sheep management. The Payette has addressing this issue through a supplemental environmental impact statement (EIS). The Payette National Forest released the *Risk Analysis of Disease Transmission Between Domestic Sheep and Bighorn Sheep on the Payette National Forest* (USDA Forest Service 2006) in March of 2006 to help assess the risk on the Payette National Forest grazing allotments. A 30 day comment period was initiated in March, extended twice, ending in late July 2006. Many comments were received in response to the document release. The Forest assessed the comments and organized a panel of scientists in November 2006 to discuss the issues between domestic livestock grazing and bighorn sheep. A summary of these meeting notes were released to the public following the panel discussion.

The Payette NF began addressing Travel Management Planning in 2004. The draft EIS was published in early February 2006 and the comment period officially began on February 17, 2006 with the publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. The comment period on the draft EIS was initially 46-days, however, it was extended an additional 46 days at the request of members of the public. The final EIS was released in the winter of 2008. Four records of decision will be released (Weiser Ranger District – Snow Free Travel was released in February 2008) from this final EIS.

Due to unforeseen natural and other events, a "lesson learned" from experience implementing original forest plan is that plans need to be dynamic to account for changed resource conditions (i.e., large scale wildfire or listing of additional species under the Endangered Species Act, and changed regulation and policies). To accomplish this, the Forest Plan has embraced the principles of adaptive management. During 2006, Payette NF experienced two vegetation altering events during 2006. A tornado touched down on the west side of the Forest causing severe damage to the localized area and wildfires were widespread on predominately the east side of the Forest.

This Monitoring and Evaluation Report reflects the third full year of implementing the revised Forest Plan. It reports Forest monitoring activities and accomplishments for fiscal year (FY) 2006, which was from October 2005 through September 2006.

Figure 1. Location of Payette National Forest



1.2 Forest Plan Monitoring and Evaluation

The goal of Forest Plan monitoring is to determine what in the Plan 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 Plan's desired condition and provide the information to keep the Forest Plan viable. Monitoring and evaluation indicate how Forest Plan decisions have been implemented, how effective the implementation has proven to be in accomplishing desired outcomes, and how valid the underlying the management strategy expressed in the Forest Plan.

Chapter IV of the 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. While most of the elements require annual data gathering, most are 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 third year of monitoring under the revised Plan, this monitoring report focuses on the elements from Tables IV-1 and IV-2 that are to be reported annually and those that are reported 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. (Although the Forest Service issued new 36 CFR 219 NFMA planning regulations since that time, the Forest Plan was prepared under the 1982 planning regulations, which remain in effect to that extent.) Monitoring also tracks compliance with the requirements in the biological opinions (BO) on the revised Forest Plan by the regulatory agencies US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NFMS also know as 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 Forest 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 Forest 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 would make the determination as to what "needs for change" exist, and whether Forest 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 five monitoring elements required to be reported annually and the nineteen elements required to be reported every 3 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 2006. 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. 2006 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

FY 2006 was a busy year on the Payette NF, requiring most Forest personnel to participate and support working through a variety of events. There were many wildfires across the Forest, a tornado, and a helicopter crash that was fatal to three Forest Service employees and the contract pilot.

On Sunday June 4, 2006, severe winds associated with a tornado blew down timber on the Council and New Meadows Ranger Districts. The tornado touched down for approximately 12 miles causing effects covering approximately 5,000 acres. The National Weather Service categorized the tornado as an F 2, with winds from 113 to 157 miles per hour. Assessments began immediately to understand the effects of the tornado to public safety, fuels loads, and potential insect and disease issues. The environmental analysis process was completed by October 2006.

The fire season began in July, but quickly escalated in August with several lightening storms. These August storms ignited approximately 110 wildfires in the month of August. During the August lightning storms, there was a fatal helicopter crash on the Forest. Approximately 149 wildfires (21 human caused) totally approximately 53,774 acres and 21 wildfire use fires totally approximately 16,808 acres burned on the Payette National Forest in FY 2006. Resource Advisors worked from mid July to November to ensure that the actions for fire suppression activities were consistent with Forest direction and that the effects of fire suppression activities were within tolerance for the resource. The Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) Team spent many days surveying areas burn areas and implementing strategies in order to limit immediately erosion and degradation of the resource caused by the wildfires.

No formal project-level monitoring occurred during FY 2006 due to these and other events. However, Payette National Forest employees spent their time caring for the land and working through these events. Following are the results for the monitoring elements for FY 2006.

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, CANDIDATE SPECIES (TEPC)

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.*

Accomplishments:

Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel

Habitat Model
In 2005, northern Idaho ground squirrel (NIDGS) colonies were found in habitats isolated from known colonies and at elevations higher than any extant or extirpated colonies. In 2006, the NIDGS Technical Team identified an action item in their annual program of work to use NIDGS colony occurrences to model areas of potential habitat across the range of the species. Boise NF staff took the lead on this project. After investigating numerous parameters that could be used in the model, four parameters: soils, slope, aspect, and vegetative cover were selected and combined to identify potential habitat.

Forest-Wide Population Monitoring
Following review and feedback from the Technical Team, the 2006 NIDGS Habitat Model was used during the 2006 field season to inventory suitable habitat throughout Valley and Adams counties for NIDGS. Population monitoring and surveys for NIDGS are conducted in cooperation with the Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) and the USFWS. More than 5,000 acres were surveyed, mostly on private and state land. Four new sites were found – Price Valley South and Southeast, East Fork Lost Creek, and Bear-Lick Ridgeline - all in Adams County No new colonies were documented in Valley County. Although there was much suitable modeled habitat, none was found to be occupied by NIDGS. In many places, habitat was occupied by Columbian ground squirrels.

The following information is summarized from the *Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel Population Monitoring Progress Report*, (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2006).

> In 2006, personnel discovered 8 new sites and revisited 37 known sites. A total of 920 squirrels were detected. Two new high elevation sites were documented in 2006 – Bear-Lick Ridgeline and Smith Mountain. During reconnaissance of the Bear Tornado, Payette NF personnel discovered 3 small pockets of NIDGS near Steve's Creek. These were all within 500 m. of each other and were collectively named North Steve's Creek. Other new sites included Rocky Top, East Fork Lost Creek, East Fork Lost Creek South, Price Valley South and Price Valley Southeast (combined as one site), and OX-Bear Creek West.
>
> NIDGS occupied 43 sites in 2006. Of these, 5 sites total (2 on National Forest System (NFS) land) supported greater than 100 individuals and 22 sites supported less than 20 individuals. More thorough surveys in Price Valley and Lost Valley yielded larger population estimates for these two areas. A surprising find was the resurgence of the Cottonwood Corral site previously thought to be extirpated since no NIDGS had been observed since 2002. This year, 47 squirrels were detected.
>
> As of December 2006, the overall NIDGS adult/yearling population was conservatively estimated at 1,395 individuals. This represents nearly a 5% increase from 2005's estimate of 940. New sites contributed about 24% of the increase.

Population estimates were also provided for the metapopulations area identified in the Recovery Plan (US Fish and Wildlife Service 2003). Three metapopulation areas supported more than 200 squirrels. The Recovery Plan's target is an effective population of greater than 500 in each of 10 areas.

Note NIDGS survey work meets the following Conservation Recommendation provided by USFWS in the Biological Opinion for the Payette Forest Plan*:*

> *"Continue existing efforts to locate additional natural population of northern Idaho ground squirrels within the Probable Historical Distribution of the species. Document the systematic search methods so all surveys are using similar techniques."*

Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel Translocations
In 2005, the IDFG, in cooperation with the Payette NF and USFWS, translocated 13 squirrels to Price Valley Guard Station to augment this small population and assess release methods. Two died before entering hibernation. In 2006, 3-4 translocated squirrels were recaptured (27-36% survival). For comparison with "recapture" success, 7 resident squirrels were marked prior to the translocation efforts. Only one of these resident squirrels was recaptured in 2006 suggesting that low recapture rates may confound evaluation of translocation success.

Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel Metapopulation Plan
The Recovery Plan requires site-specific metapopulation area management plans. In 2006, a draft of the first plan for the Lost Valley metapopulation was completed by the Payette NF and IDFG. A final version is expected in 2007.

Project-Scale NIDGS Inventories
From May 1 to August 1, approximately 50 person hours were spent surveying approximately 1,300 acres in the 4th of July Creek, East Lost Creek, Lower Warm Springs, and Rapid River above Paradise Cabin. The surveys were completed as standard protocol for the proposed East Lost and 4th of July NIDGS habitat restoration project areas, and the Warm Springs Fuels Reduction Project. Sites were surveyed that had the same soil and vegetative characteristics, aspect, elevations (3,200'-6,000'), and slope consistent with extant and extinct NIDGS populations (see habitat model description above). Possible habitat was searched by walking slowly, looking for NIDGS burrows, fresh droppings, and glassing suitable NIDGS habitat. New NIDGS sites were found during these surveys (see description above).

Surveys for NIDGS were conducted prior to initiating prescribed fire activities in the Rapid River project area. Approximately 400 acres of potential habitat was surveyed, but no NIDGS were found. Columbian ground squirrel activity restricted to riparian areas with more diverse vegetation and deeper soils.

Surveys were conducted in the Lower Warm Springs area on approximately 640 acres. This area lies within the Warm Springs NIDGS metapopulation area. Although there was a substantial amount of potential habitat, no NIDGS or NIDGS burrows were located. This proposed project is slated to improve NIDGS habitat on approximately 180 acres.

From July - September 15, approximately 500 person hours were spent surveying approximately 2,500 acres of potential NIDGS habitat adjacent to the Bear Tornado. New NIDGS sites were found at Steves Creek.

Bald Eagle

Nest Surveys
The Payette NF, in cooperation with IDFG, monitored the bald eagle nest site in the Lost Valley area. The nest was occupied and two young were fledged. Idaho Power Company monitored nest sites in Hells Canyon. The Hibble Gulch site occurs on the Payette NF immediately adjacent to Hells Canyon reservoir. This nest was occupied and two young were fledged. The Lamont Springs nest site, discovered in 2005, site is approximately 0.1 mile north of the Payette NF boundary on the Nez Perce NF. Two young were fledged in 2006. Results were reported in the *Idaho Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring 2006 Annual Report* published by IDFG in December 2006. Additional information is contained in the *Hells Canyon Bald Eagle Nesting and Productivity Study 2006* (Carpenter L. and A.M. A. Holthuijzen 2006) published by Idaho Power Company.

Bald eagle nest site monitoring is coordinated through the Western Idaho Bald Eagle Working Group and is shared with outside agencies responsible for bald eagle recovery monitoring. The monitoring efforts on the Forest contribute to larger scale monitoring and data is used to determine trends in bald eagle populations at the local and regional levels. Note this activity met Conservation Recommendations for bald eagles provided by USFWS in the BO for the Forest Plan.

Objective TEOB05: *Coordinate with research efforts for TEPC species to determine basic life history requirements and potential effects from management activities. Coordinate efforts and information with the Idaho Conservation Data Center, universities, Forest Service Research Stations, etc.*

Accomplishments: In 2006, the Payette NF continued monitoring of vegetation utilization levels by livestock in areas in and adjacent to occupied NIDGS sites. As part of this effort, long-term nested frequency study sites established in 2000 were resurveyed at the Fawn Creek, Cold Springs East, and Cold Springs West sites. No clear trends were seen in vegetation condition; however the next review of this study site will be in 3-5 years. Trends in vegetation may be determined at that time.

Objective TEOB06: *Develop an agreed-upon process with NOAA (NMFS) Fisheries and USFWS for project-level consultation that addresses multi-scale analyses and tracking of environmental baselines.*

Accomplishments: In 2004, the Payette NF, NMFS, and USFWS agreed to a "Framework" for implementation of the 2003 Forest Plan that will inform project level consultation. The process, developed in coordination with Rocky Mountain Research Station, addresses multi-scale analyses of risks and threats to species and their habitat and tracking of habitat environmental baselines. In 2006, much of the progress on this effort focused on updating baseline descriptions for listed species; the Canada lynx, northern Idaho ground squirrel, and bald eagle.

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

Accomplishments: In an effort to facilitate the recovery of the northern Idaho ground squirrel, the Payette NF has accomplished the following habitat enhancement projects for calendar year 2006. The areas selected are consistent with the US Forest Service (USFS) Restoration Plan, USFWS Recovery Plan, and the USFS/USFWS Conservation Agreement.

Lost Valley
105 acres were broadcast burned. This was the second rotation of prescribed burning on 45 acres. Objective was to rejuvenate and enhance the grass and forb communities, and expand the existing NIDGS habitat.

Price Valley
Eighty acres were prescribed burned. This was the second rotation of prescribed burning on 30 acres. Objective was to rejuvenate and enhance the grass and forb communities, and reduce slash from the PV Squirrel Timber Sale.

Eight acres were pre-commercially thinned. Objective was to expand and enhance NIDGS habitat, reduce ladder fuels, and reduce large tree mortality during future broadcast burning.

Lost Valley and Price Valley
The East Zone, West Zone YCC, and fire crews constructed log jacks, piled slash, pulled duff away from large diameter ponderosa pine, and re-constructed fire line over 200 acres within the Lost Valley and Price Valley restoration areas. Objective is to provide predator protection, provide burrowing sites, protect and prepare the areas for broadcast burning in fall.

Two nested plots received there second reading, and a new nested plot was established near the 2005 translocation site at the Price Valley Guard Station.

Objective TEOB23: *Develop operational resources (maps, keys, desk guides, etc.) within 1 year of signing the ROD, to coordinate TEPC species concerns and practical mitigations, and include those resource tools in the Fire Management Plan. Consult with NMFS and USFWS on operational resources on an annual basis.*

Accomplishments: In FY 2004, the Payette NF developed a fire management guidebook (*Resource Advisor's Guide for the Payette National Forest*). Specific information on the protection of wildlife resources, particularly northern Idaho ground squirrel was provided at a Resource Advisor training session for Payette employees in 2006.

The Forest Fisheries Biologist reviews the fire management guidebook and updates mapping indicating waters closed to dipping/drafting each year as needed. Instructions relative to aquatic resource protection during fire management actions were presented at Resource Advisor training in 2006.

Objective TEOB027: *During fine scale analysis in acres where dispersed and developed recreation practices or facilities are identified as a potential concern or problem contributing to adverse effects to TEPC species or degradation of their habitats, evaluate and document where the problems are and prioritize opportunities to mitigate, through avoidance ort minimization, adverse effects to TEPC species.*

Accomplishment:

Lost Valley
The two locked gates that were installed in 2005 appear have been accepted by the public, the gates were not vandalized, and fewer all terrain vehicle (ATV) tracks were observed than any previous year. No firewood cutting signs were posted throughout the Lost Valley restoration area, compliance was satisfactory. The Payette NF Law Enforcement Officer patrolled the Lost Valley restoration area one day per week, no citations were issued.

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 NF 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 FY 2006, the Forest made this request on 19 occasions and received concurrence to burn on all occasions. None of these 19 prescribed burning activities exceeded 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.*

Accomplishment: 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 wildland fire use. The IDEQ has not developed a Regional Haze SIP, but anticipated submitting a plan to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in December 2007. This plan should outline what data requirements, if any, are needed to report emissions from wildland fire use.

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

Accomplishment: During FY 2006, the Payette NF used mechanical treatments and prescribed burning as mentioned above (ASOB01; Accomplishment), and Wildland Fire Use (WFU) to help manage vegetation to reduce potential smoke from uncharacteristic wildfire. The total area treated was 23,019 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 use projects, inform the public about potential smoke impacts to health and safety.*

Accomplishment: At the beginning of each prescribed burning season, the Payette NF shares information with the local media regarding areas identified for fuels treatment activities, and the reasons for the treatment. Additionally, information is released to the new media prior to each prescribed burn. One of the primary objectives is to reduce the risk and effects of an uncharacteristic wildfire.

The Payette NF provides information on the annual prescribed burning activities in cooperation with the Boise NF, the Lower Snake River District of the Bureau of Land Management (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 prescribed burning season. 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 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 2006, BAER survey reports were completed on the South Fork Complex Fires, Trout Creek, and Cuddy Fires. Emergency 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. Soil and water mitigation measures such as designating skid trails and burning when soil moisture is greater than 20 percent are included in fuel management projects to minimize adverse impacts to soil and water resources.

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

Accomplishments: The Forest continues to identify opportunities to restore degraded soil conditions during timber and fuels management project proposals and National Environmental Policy Act (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. Additionally, the increase of additional areas of Total Soil Resource Commitment and Detrimental Disturbance are minimized and/or eliminated through the development of site specific mitigation measures and project design features. Project decisions in FY 2006 that identified opportunities include Paddy Flat Vegetation Management Project, Pole Creek Vegetation Management Project, Brownlee/Seid Creek Improvement Thin, Meadows Slope Wildlife Fire Protection Project, West Pine Fuels Reduction and Restoration Project, and Muddy Squirrel Project.

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 Payette NF continued 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 Payette NF continues to apply for new water rights through Idaho Department of Water Resources (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: Soil and Water Objectives (SWOB) 5-8 pertaining to TMDLs and 303(d) impaired water bodies are addressed together. In 2006, the Payette NF continued to provide representation to the following Watershed Advisory Groups (WAG): 1) SFSR, 2) Cascade Reservoir, 3) Big Payette Lake, 4) Weiser River, and 5) Little Salmon River. TMDLs were in place for the SFSR and Cascade Reservoir. All Forest Service required project implementation for these TMDLs have been completed prior to 2006. The Payette NF continues to cooperate with IDEQ on implementation and effectiveness monitoring related to the Clean Water Act. 2006 Monitoring Plans and 2005 Monitoring Results were provided to IDEQ during our annual spring coordination meeting.

Objective SWOB09: *Using watershed condition indicators (refer to Forest Plan 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.*

Accomplishments: Environmental baselines were updated during preparation of watershed biological assessments in 2006.

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.*"

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

Accomplishments: The Payette NF 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. The Payette NF evaluated the impacts of the 2006 Van Meter Fire on the Boulder Creek the Municipal Watershed for the Community of Yellow Pine through the South Complex BAER survey report. Findings were shared with the manager of the Yellow Pine water treatment facility.

<u>Aquatic and Riparian Habitat and Species</u>

Objective SWOB11: *Coordinate with state and local agencies and tribal governments annually to limit or reduce degrading effects from stocking programs on native and desired non-native fish and aquatic species.*

Accomplishment: The Payette NF held coordination meetings with both the Nez Perce Tribe and Idaho Fish and Game in the spring of 2006, to coordinate programs for the coming year.

Objective 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.*

Accomplishments: For Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed and Region 4 (R4) Sensitive Fishes, project-level planning was conducted according to standards and guidelines in the Forest Plan, along with project-level consultations with NMFS and USFWS, ensure that management actions do not increase fragmentation of aquatic systems. Many projects include stream crossing upgrades that restore connectivity.

Objective SWOB15: *Maintain and update species occurrence and habitat maps for Forest species (e.g., MIS and Region 4 Sensitive species) during fine and site/project-scale analyses.*

Accomplishments: Maps of known distributions of 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 Payette NF Fisheries Program staff coordinates at least annually with IDFG, and did so in the spring of 2006.

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: The Forest reviewed the WARS and prioritization process. It was determined that the Forest would correct several obvious errors in the WARS priority map in FY2007.

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: 15.5 miles unauthorized roads were obliterated in FY 2006. See the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (Section 2.1.4, table 13) and Watershed Aquatic Recovery Strategy (Section 2.2.1.4, table 15) accomplishments for specifics.

2.1.1.4 WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Objective WIOB01: *During fine-scale analyses, identify and prioritize opportunities for restoration of habitat linkage to promote genetic integrity and wildlife species distribution (see Appendix E).*

Accomplishments: Species Conservation Assessments are one tool to improve management of fish, wildlife, and plant species. The Regional Conservation Assessment project was initiated as a special earmark in FY 2006. Forests in the Intermountain Region were assigned a species for which to complete a Conservation Assessment. The Payette NF was assigned the conservation assessment for the white-headed woodpecker (*Picoides albolarvatus*). In 2006, the Forest Ecologist completed the draft report: Summary of Key Components for Conservation of *Picoides albolarvatus*.

Objective 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.*

Accomplishments:

Forest-scale Actions

The Payette NF, in cooperation with the Boise NF and Sawtooth NF, continued work on the Wildlife Conservation Strategy (WCS) for the Southwest Idaho Ecogroup. During Forest Plan Revision, wildlife habitat families that have declined from historic conditions were identified for the Southwest Idaho Ecogroup and Payette NF. Using an updated multi-scale analysis of wildlife habitat families, the Forest will prioritize restoration activities for this planning period (i.e., 10-15 years) for those habitat families and associated species identified as being of greatest concern. The process also prioritizes longer-term (i.e., 15+ years) needs of other habitats that have experienced varying levels of decline.

The updated multi-scale analysis uses the principles and science generated in support of the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICBEMP Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Strategy, 2003; Raphael et al. 2000; and, Wisdom et al. 2000), as did the analysis supporting decisions in the 2003 Forest Plan. In addition, this updated analysis incorporates new information generated after the revised Forest Plans were implemented in September 2003. New information incorporated includes mid-scale assessments such as the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies for the State of Idaho and Utah, respectively (Idaho CWCS 2005 and Utah CWCS 2005), and the Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage Grouse in Idaho (2006 Public Review Draft).

Documentation concerning this comprehensive WCS will be completed through a supplement to the analysis of the SWIE Forest Plan Final EIS. A Notice of Intent to supplement the analysis of the Final EIS was published in the Federal Register on September 14, 2007.

Fine-scale Restoration Actions

In 2006, project-level planning and activities followed standards and guidelines in the Forest Plan as well as ESA consultation agreements with USFWS for listed wildlife species. Examples include prescribed burning to improve NIDGS habitat in Lost Valley and Price Valley areas and planning activities for the Muddy Squirrel Project and the Meadows Slope Wildland Fire Protection Project.

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.*

Accomplishments: The Forest Wildlife Biologist meets annually with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) Idaho Wildlife Services (WS) to review actions taken over the prior year and discuss the annual operating plan for the current year. As in recent years, USDA-APHIS WS activities in 2006 on the Payette NF focused on wolf control actions due to wolf depredation activities. The Blue Bunch Pack, Lick Creek Pack, Carey Dome Pack, and Jungle Creek Pack caused depredation problems. In total, WS confirmed 121 sheep killed with another 127 sheep counted as "probable" kills through the end of September 2006. WS removed 2 wolves from the Blue Bunch Pack, 3 from the Carey Dome Pack, and 1 from the Jungle Creek Pack. Four wolves were collared and released; 2 from the Blue Bunch Pack and 2 from the Carey Dome Pack. Additional information is contained in the USDA-APHIS Idaho Wildlife Services Wolf Activity Report Fiscal Year 2006.

In addition, WS took action to remove badgers depredating on northern Idaho ground squirrels in Lost Valley and Price Valley areas. One badger was trapped in the Lost Valley Restoration Area and three badgers were removed in the Price Valley Guard Station area.

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

Accomplishment: The Payette NF hosted an International Migratory Bird Day event with the IDFG and Idaho State Parks at Ponderosa State Park. International Migratory Bird Day celebrates the journeys of migratory birds between their breeding grounds in North America and their wintering grounds in Mexico, Central, and South America. The event, which takes place on the second Saturday in May each year, encourages bird conservation and increases awareness of birds through hikes, bird watching, information about birds and migration, public events, and a variety of other education programs. Over 680 people participated in this year's boreal forests-themed event.

In addition, the Forest Wildlife Biologist participated in elementary school field trip to Goose Creek Falls on the Payette NF and discussed wildlife and wildlife habitat needs.

Objective WIOB07: *Maintain or restore each PVG in each watershed (5th field hydrologic unit) to provide at least 20 percent of the forest vegetation in the large tree size class (medium tree size class in PVG 10).*

Accomplishment: In 2006, there were 11 decisions signed relating to vegetation management. All decisions met Forest Plan direction. In some cases, the existing condition in the watershed was less than 20 percent in the large tree size class, but no decision further reduced the large tree size class at the watershed scale.

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)*

Accomplishments: A variety of wildlife population and habitat surveys were conducted on the Forest. Surveys focused on the following species: pileated woodpeckers, northern goshawks, flammulated owls, great gray owls, bald eagle nest sites, northern Idaho ground squirrels, and forest carnivores. Bald eagle monitoring and northern Idaho ground squirrel surveys are described above under objective TEOB01. The results of MIS monitoring is described below under the heading of "Population Monitoring." As a result of these efforts, new locations for MIS and Region 4 sensitive species were documented and mapped. This information was provided to the Idaho CDC and entered into the Payette NF wildlife occurrence FAUNA database.

Snow track surveys were conducted in cooperation with IDFG biologists to monitor forest carnivores (i.e., fisher, wolverine, wolf, lynx, and marten). The results of these surveys are published in the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Snow-Track Survey Report – Winter 2006 (Patton 2006). In 2006, forest carnivores and secondary target species detected on snow-track surveys in the McCall Subregion included 14 marten, 1 wolverine (2 other suspected hair samples were determined to be from other species), 83 snowshoe hair, 151 red squirrel, 10 coyote, 1 wolf, and 19 weasels.

2006 Peregrine Falcon Model

The State of Idaho provides an annual report to the USFWS on the status of peregrine falcons in Idaho. The Payette NF worked with the IDFG and Boise NF to identify potential peregrine falcon habitat. Initially, IDFG approached the Boise NF for assistance in developing a predictive habitat model for peregrine falcon nest habitat. A pilot model was developed using topographic parameters and geospatial

layers to identify areas exhibiting characteristics of peregrine nest habitat. Once the pilot was completed, IDFG wildlife biologists surveyed potential habitat by helicopter and validated the model's efficiency at depicting high quality potential nest sites for peregrine falcons. This model was then applied on the Payette and Sawtooth NFs. IDFG is planning to acquire further funds to conduct helicopter surveys. While development of this model was prompted by IDFG, the peregrine falcon is a Forest sensitive species on the Payette NF and the model serves to improve our knowledge of potential occupied habitat for this species on the Forest.

Flying Squirrel

A research study was conducted by the University of South Dakota on the genetics of the northern flying squirrels (*Glacomys sabrinus*). Live traps were placed on the Forest from 29 June 2006 to 8 July 2006. One *G. sabrinus* was captured and seven *Tamiascuirus hudsonicus* were captured. Samples (i.e., ear clips) were collected from all trapped animals and road kills (where applicable). These samples will be used for a phylogeographic study on *G. sabrinus* and *T. hudsonicus*, specifically comparing the Black Hills of South Dakota populations to other populations.

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.*

Accomplishment: In 2006, there were 11 decisions signed relating to vegetation management. The remaining four vegetation management decisions would be applicable to Objective VEOB01. Two of the four projects specifically address encouraging aspen regeneration and growth (Paddy Flat Vegetation Management Project and Brownlee Seid Improvement Thinning) Other project objectives included timber stand improvement, salvage logging, hazardous fuels reduction, and road "day-lighting".

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

Accomplishment: The Payette NF Complete a pilot project with the Remote Sensing Applications Center (RSAC) to test the effectiveness of National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) imagery as new technology in existing vegetation mapping. Additionally, The Forest continued a contract with IDFG and Idaho CDC for riparian vegetation classification. This effort will facilitate effective vegetation monitoring.

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

Accomplishment: The Forest Silviculturist presented information on a 4th grade field trip to Goose Creek Falls. Topics presented and discussed included interpretation of vegetation diversity, tree identification, and introduction to fire ecology.

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.*

Accomplishment: The Payette NF Complete a pilot project with the RSAC to test the effectiveness of NAIP imagery as new technology in existing vegetation mapping. Additionally, The Forest continued a

contract with IDFG and Idaho CDC for riparian vegetation classification. This effort will facilitate effective vegetation monitoring. Both efforts were cost-share projects.

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

Accomplishment: All vegetation treatments work towards meeting Forest Plan desired conditions. The degree to which this is accomplished depends on the purpose and need for each specific project. The Payette NF 5-year action plan outlines the vegetation management program. This action plan is updated annually and is responsive to a variety of things such as changing conditions, management emphasis, and agency.

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.*

Accomplishment: The Payette NF Complete a pilot project with the RSAC to test the effectiveness of NAIP imagery as new technology in existing vegetation mapping, for future mid-scale inventories of vegetation conditions. Additionally, The Forest continued a contract with IDFG and Idaho CDC for riparian vegetation classification. This effort will facilitate effective vegetation monitoring and assist in determining treatment priorities or needs.

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.*

Accomplishment: The Forest Botanist and crew mapped locations of occupied and suitable plant habitats and their populations. Locations were mapped either as new locations or as expanded populations. Site and species information was gathered and sent to Idaho CDC in October 2006.

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

Accomplishment: In cooperation with the Forest noxious weed management program, invasive weeds were controlled in and around sensitive plant habitat. The Payette NF initiated a cost-share agreement with Red Butte Botanical Gardens to grow and maintain individual plants of S*axifrage bryophora* var. *tobiasiae* (*Tobias saxifrage*) in a botanical preserve to ensure that plants can be grown for restoration purposes. The Forest Botanist and crew transplanted bulbils of *Saxifrage bryophora* var. *tobiasiae* into areas where populations were destroyed by wildfire.

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 cryptogrammic soil crusts with lichens, bryophytes, and fungi.*

Accomplishment: No Special Interest sites recommended in 2006.

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

Accomplishment: Following the 2006 Rare Plant Conference with Idaho Fish and Game, *Lewisia kelloggii* was dropped and *Lewisia sacajaweana* added to the rare plant list on the Forest.

Table 1. Payette National Forest Plant Species of Concern.

Species Name	Common Name	Global[1]	State[2]	Forest Service Status[3]		Global Distrib.[4]
				Regional Sensitive Current	PNF Plan Proposed	
Allium madidum	swamp onion	G3	S3	S	S	re
Allium tolmiei var. *persimile*	Tolmie's onion	G4/T3	S3	S	S	le
Allium validum	Tall Swamp Onion	G4	S3	N	W	w
Allotropa virgata	candystick	G4	S3	S	W	d
Arabis sparsiflora var. atrorubens	Sicklepad Rockcress	G5T3	-	-	W	w
Astragalus paysonii	Payson's milkvetch	G3	S3	S	S	re
Astragalus vexilliflexus var. *vexilliflexus*	bent flowered milkvetch	G4/T?[5]	S1	N	S	d
Botrychium lanceolatum	Lance-leaved moonwort	G5T4	S3	N	W	cb
Botrychium lineare	Slender moonwort	C-G1	SH	N	W	sd
Botrychium simplex	Least moonwort	G5	S2	N	S	cb
Buxbaumia viridis	green bug moss	G4	S2	N	S	w
Calamagrostis tweedyi	Cascade reedgrass	G3	S2	S	S	re
Camassia cusickii	Cusick camas	G4	S2	S	S	re
Carex aboriginum	Indian Valley Sedge	G1	S1	N	W	le
Carex buxbaumii	Buxbaum's sedge	G5	S3	N	W	w
Ceanothus prostratus ssp. prostratus	Mahala-mat ceanothus	G5/?	S1	N	S	d
Chrysothamnus nauseosus spp. *Nanus*	dwarf grey rabbitbrush	G5/T4	S3	N	W	re
Crepis bakeri ssp. *idahoensis*.	Idaho hawksbeard	G4/T2	S2	N	S	le
Douglasia idahoensis	Idaho Douglasia	G2	S2	S	W	le
Draba incerta	Yellowstone draba	G5	S2	N	S	re
Eatonella nivea	White eatonella	G4	S3	N	W	d
Epilobium palustre	Swamp Willow Weed	G5	S3	N	W	w
Epipactis gigantea	Giant helleborine orchid	G3	S3	N	S*	sd
Hackelia davisii	Davis' stickseed	G3	S3	N	S	le
Halimolobos perplexa var. perplexa	Puzzling halimolobos	G4/T3	S3	S	S	le
Haplopappus radiatus	Snake River golden weed	G3	S3	S	S	re
Helodium blandowii	Blandow's helodium	G5	S2	N	S	cb
Hierochloe odorata	Sweetgrass	G4/G5	N	N	W	w
Howellia aquatilus	Water howellia	T-G2	S1	N	W	sd
Leptodactylon pungens ssp. *hazeliae*	Hazel's prickly phlox	G5/T2	S2	S	S	le
Lewisia kelloggii	Kellogg's bitteroot	G4	S2	N	S	re
Lobaria scrobiculata	Pored lungwort	G3/G4	S1	N	S	cb
Mimulus clivicola	Bank Monkeyflower	G4	S3	S	W	re
Mirabilis macfarlanei	MacFarlane's four-o-clock	T-G2	S2	N	W	Le
Peraphyllium ramosissimum	Squaw apple	G4	S2	N	S	Sd
Pilophorus acicularis	Nail lichen	G4	S2	N	S	Sd
Polystichum kruckebergii	Kruckeberg's Sword-fern	G4	S2	N	S	re

Table 1, cont. Payette National Forest Plant Species of Concern.

Species Name	Common Name	Global[1]	State[2]	Forest Service Status[3]		Global Distrib.[4]
				Regional Sensitive Current	PNF Plan Proposed	
Ribes wolfii	Wolf's current	G4	S2	N	S	D
Rubus bartonianus	Bartonberry	G2	S2	S	S	Le
Salix glauca	gray willow	G5	S2	N	S	D
Sanicula graveolens	Sierra sanicle	G4	S1	N	S	W
Saxifraga bryophora var. *tobiasiae*	Tobias' saxifrage	G5T2	S2	S	S	Le
Schistostega pennata	Luminous moss	G4	S1	N	W	cb
Sedum borschii	Borch's stonecrop	G4 ?	S2	N	S	Sd
Silene spaldingii	Spalding's silene	T-G2	S1	N	W	re
Spiranthes diluvialis	Ute Ladies'-tresses	T-G2	S1	N	W	re
Triantha occidentalis ssp. *brevistyla*	Short-style tofieldia	G5/T4	S1	N	S	D

[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, treated, and agreement with the U.S. Government.*

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

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.*

Accomplishment: The Forest Botanist provided training on rare plants to Payette NF employees. The botany staff taught native plant identification to McCall-Donnelly science class. Annually, the Forest Botanists conducted wildflower walks for staff to learn about wildflowers on the Payette NF.

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

Accomplishment: Any invasive plants noted on botanical surveys were reported to Forest Weed Management for treatment. Botanical surveys or monitoring occurred on over 50 sites in 2006. Invasive plants are noted on all surveys and reported to Forest Weed Management for treatment.

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

Accomplishment: The Forest Botanist and crew mapped locations of occupied and suitable plant habitats and their populations. Locations were mapped either as new locations or as expanded populations. Site and species information was gathered and sent to Idaho CDC in October 2006.

Objective BTOB011: *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.*

Accomplishment: In FY 2006, a botanical viewing site was established near Council, Idaho, and the location, photos, and species list was posted on the Forest Service public web site.

Objective BTOB012: *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.*

Accomplishment: The Payette NF developed a cost-share agreement with Idaho Fish & Game to continue monitoring of *Saxifrage bryophora* var. *tobiasiae* (*Tobias saxifrage*). Monitoring data will be used to develop a new strategy in 2008-09.

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

Accomplishment: The Forest Botanist worked with USDA FS Pacific Northwest (PNW) Research Station in Corvallis, Oregon, collecting bluebunch wheatgrass for a molecular genetic study to compare native genotypes for restoration cultivars.

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.*

Accomplishment: The Payette NF contracted with Buffalo Berry, a local nursery, to collect and grow native plants for 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.*

Accomplishment: Tabular and spatial data was collected on 949 invasive weed sites and uploaded information into the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) corporate database.

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

Accomplishment: 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.

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.

Accomplishment: All four CWMAs, 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 NPOB04: *Coordinate with the Idaho Department of Transportation and county officials to assist and promote cooperative efforts to reduce introduction and spread of noxious weeds.*

Accomplishment: In addition to cooperative work with the CWMAs, the Payette NF has participated with city and county personnel to treat weed infestations within the city of McCall and on Highway 55 and 95 corridors.

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.*

Accomplishment: 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.*

Accomplishment: 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 NPOB07: *Use Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation or other appropriate procedures to reduce the risk of Noxious weed expansion in wildland fire areas, especially those identified in the Forest-wide database and map library as being highly susceptible to invasion.*

Accomplishment: In FY 2006, approximately 530 acres were inventoried for noxious weeds following the Snake One wildland fire. Several small infestations of Scotch thistle were treated as a result of the inventory.

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.*

Accomplishment: The Forest has not completed a Forest wide programmatic plan for noxious weed management, but instead plans have been developed in conjunction with our CWMAs partners. Cooperation in development of strategic plans with the CWMA partners have covered the majority of the Forest. Consultation with NMFS, USFWS, and 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 FY 2006, the Payette NF treated 6,211 acres of hazardous fuels using prescribed burning. Additionally, the Forest treated 16,808 acres using naturally occurring fire (wildland fire use or WFU). Of the 23,019 acre total treated, the treatment mix was 2 percent Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and 98 percent Non-WUI. Table 2 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 completed in the Non-WUI portion of the Forest in 2006 did occur in these areas and has helped to move them toward lower condition class ratings.

Table 2. Hazardous Fuels Treated, FY 2006

FY 2006	WUI Treatments	WUI Acres	Non-WUI Treatments	Non-WUI Acres	Total Treatments	Total Acres
Mechanical	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prescribed Fire	5	494	12	5,717	17	6,211
Subtotal	5	494	12	5,717	17	6,211
Wildland Fire Use - WFU*	0	0	21	16,808	21	16,808
Total	**5**	**494**	**33**	**22,525**	**38**	**23,019**

*WFU acres are not considered part of the forest target, but do reflect an ecological change on the landscape including condition class change resulting from managed fire activities.

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.

Accomplishment: Table 3 shows the acres of timberland harvested, reforested, and thinned in FY2006. The reforestation acres include 66 acres of planting and 47 acres of animal damage control. Acres treated are the result of timber planning pipeline of months or years. The shortfall in timber harvested, reforested and thinning reflects past sales approved under the previous Forest Plan, not the 2003 Plan. In 2006, the projects prepared and approved under the Forest Plan are yet to be implemented. The Forest is starting to rebuild our vegetation management program and will occur incrementally over the next several years.

Table 3. Timber Area Treated FY 2006

	Total Timber Harvested (Acres)	Total Salvage (Acres)	Total Other than Salvage (Acres)	Total Reforested (Acres)	Total Timber Stand Improvement (Acres)
Completed	**969**	**0**	**0**	**113.**	**2,328**

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

Accomplishment: In FY2006, the Payette NF (offered) approximately 10.6 million board feet (MMBF) of timber which contributed to the ASQ. This consisted of 10.3 MMBF of green and 0.3 MMBF of salvage timber. Included in the total amount of green volume offered was one project, offered twice, but received no bids either time as well as a second project that was offered and received no bids. One sale was cancelled prior to bid opening and used as replacement volume for an existing timber sale because a class 2 tornado severely damaged the existing timber sale area. This shortfall from the average of 32.5 MMBF per year is primarily the result of the factors listed in Objective TROB01 as well as the cancellation of the one sale prior to bid opening. Actual amount of sawtimber volume sold in 2006 is 7.0 MMBF, which contributed to the ASQ.

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.*

Accomplishment: The Payette sold approximately 2.3 MMBF of wood products (fuelwood, posts and poles, houselogs, etc.). When combined with the 7.0 MMBF of sawtimber sold (from TROB02 above), the Payette NF contributed a total of 9.3 MMBF to the Total Sale Program Quantity (TSPQ). This is approximately 25% of that expected as an annual average.

2.1.1.10 RANGELAND RESOURCES

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.*

Accomplishment: 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 s area, identify rangeland facilities that are degrading resource conditions and prioritize opportunities to mitigate their effects or to initiate restoration of resource conditions.*

Accomplishment: 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 MINERALS AND GEOLOGY

Objective MIOB02: *Develop and implement within one year standardized inspection, monitoring, and reporting requirements for minerals activities to provide for environmentally sound exploration, development, and production of mineral and energy resources.*

Accomplishment: The Mineral Materials component of the mineral operations database (web-based component of INFRA, the Forest Service integrated national resource database) was introduced late in fiscal year 2005 by the Forest Service Minerals and Geology Program. The new database should be fully implemented in the spring and summer of 2008. The database includes inspection and monitoring forms, as well as reminders for bond reviews. The Locatable Minerals component should be released in late FY 2008. The Forest implemented an interim inspection protocol for both locatable and saleable minerals in FY 2004.

2.1.1.12 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.*

Accomplishment: In 2006, the Forest completed 1 permanent road right-of-way acquisition.

Exchange
The Forest completed the Brundage Land Exchange in August 2006. In the exchange, Brundage Mountain Company acquired a 388.60 acre tract of Federal land that is the site of current and planned base-area development at Brundage Mountain Ski Area. The United States acquired two non-Federal parcels comprised of the Reed Ranch (190.26 acres) and Squaw Meadows (159.23 acres) parcels totaling 349.49 acres.

The accomplishment of this exchange meets several of the Objectives in the Forest Plan. An Objective 1268 for Management Area 12 is to "Pursue opportunities to acquire Reed Ranch and Davis Ranch so that Forest management actions can reduce current impacts to water quality and fish habitat". Squaw Meadows is located in the municipal watershed for the city of McCall. A specific Forest Plan Objective for Management Area 7 (Management Area Direction #0752) is to "Acquire Squaw Meadows to maintain key resources and municipal watershed values."

Purchase
Phase 2 of the Thunder Mountain Acquisition was completed in November 2005. The lands included in this acquisition are Mineral Survey Numbers 1988 and 2395, approximately 60 acres. This acquisition was completed with Land and Water Conservation Funds. There are two more phases to complete this acquisition in partnership with Trust for Public Lands.

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

Accomplishment: The Payette NF 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.*

Accomplishment: 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.*

Accomplishment: In FY 2006, the Forest acquired 1 permanent Cost Share Easement (Rd. No. 51475 from the State of Idaho) and 6 temporary road easements from landowners in Bear, Idaho, to access salvage timber from the Bear Tornado. The Forest also granted 14 permanent road easements to other agencies. These included one Cost Share Easement (Rd. No. 51909 to the State of Idaho), two Private Raod Easements providing access, and 11 Public Road Easements to Adams and Valley County (Warren Profile Gap Rd. No. 50340, Summer Home Rd. No. 51416, Logan Creek Rd. No. 50343, Middle Fork Weiser River Rd. No. 50186, Six Mile-Trail Creek Rd. No. 50303, King Hill-Fall Creek Rd. No. 50214, Round Valley Rd. No. 50098, Paddy Flat Road No. 50388, Loomis Ranch Road No. 50389, Sloans Point Road No. 50401, and Lost Valley Reservoir Rd. No. 50089). The Forest granted 7 temporary permits to landowners in Bear, Idaho, to haul commercial salvage timber on Forest Roads and one permit for access to private property. The Forest executed two Cost Share Supplements to the State of Idaho/Payette NF Road Right-of-Way Construction and Use Agreement.

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

Accomplishment: With the accomplishments listed in the previous objective, 10 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.*

Accomplishment: In FY 2006, the Southwest Idaho Boundary and Title Management Zone established 8.3 miles of new boundary posting and maintained 34.4 miles of previously marked boundary line.

Objective LSOB07: *Maintain land status records.*

Accomplishment: 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.*

Accomplishment: In FY 2006, three Small Tract Act (STA) cases were processed on the Forest with the assistance of the Southwest Idaho Boundary and Title Zone. Five encroachment cases identified through boundary management projects were successfully resolved through voluntary removal. One encroachment case on the Council Ranger District was identified and successfully prosecuted by Federal law enforcement, resulting in a correction of boundary lines near the community of Bear. On the McCall Ranger District, a landowner was issued a citation for building an access road without authorization and completed rehab work to restore the site. A large gravel pit and old abandoned mining equipment adjacent to the Secesh subdivision were identified as an encroachment in the summer of 2006. Forest Service crews removed the mining equipment and rehabilitated the site. Two additional trespass uses were identified (access road and water system) and the Forest is working with the owners to resolve the trespass through issuance of a special use permit or site reclamation.

Objective LSOB09: *Continue working with utilities and others to identify potential areas for additional designated utility and communication facilities.*

Accomplishment: Idaho Power Company worked closely with the Payette NF in designation of utility corridors in this Plan. The designated corridors should meet the needs for the foreseeable future. The construction of a 230 kV powerline started this year. The transmission line extends from Cambridge to McCall through various landownerships. The line crosses National Forest System land within designated utility corridors.

Objective LSOB10: *Provide for communication site designations and developments that meet public needs and are consistent with direction for National Forest resources.*

Accomplishment: New Communication Site Plans have been prepared for Indian Mountain, Lynes Saddle, and Smith Mountain. The Forest has 12 designated communication sites.

Objective LSOB11: *Work toward resolution of RS2339 claims for pre-existing ditch lines or other water transmission structures.*

Accomplishment: Payette NF staff is working with the Regional Office Boundary and Title staff in identification, information collection, and resolution of RS2339 claims. The Payette currently has three cases that are being reviewed at the Regional Office; Stevens Spring, Eiguren Ditch and Grays Creek Ditch.

2.1.1.13 FACILITIES AND ROADS

Objective FROB01: *Analyze road system needs and associated resource effects in accordance with the established agency policy direction for roads analysis.*

Accomplishment: Agency policy requires Roads Analysis Process (FSM 7712.1). The Payette completed one Road Analysis Process (RAP) in FY 2006, which followed the established agency policy for roads analysis.

Council District completed the Indian Creek Watershed Roads Analysis (May 2006), which covered 39.9 square miles with 131 miles of road. The RAP was completed for analysis of a fuels reduction project near the town of Cuprum. Recommendations for maintenance, reconstruction, new construction, decommissioning, and access management were made for each road.

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

Accomplishment: Fine scale analysis identifying opportunities to reduce road-related degrading effects was addressed by the Payette in four project level NEPA documents in FY 2006.

McCall District completed the Paddy Flat Vegetation Management Project Final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD) (December 2005), which covered 10.5 square miles and identified 27.6 miles of road maintenance, 7.6 miles of road reconstruction, 2.9 miles of road construction, 1.7 miles of temporary road construction, and 17.1 miles of road decommissioning.

New Meadows District completed the Meadows Slope Wildland Fire Protection Project Final EIS and ROD (December 2005), which covered 10.1 square miles and identified 55.3 miles of road maintenance, 12.9 miles of road reconstruction, 0.9 miles of road construction, 0.7 miles of temporary road construction, and 10.6 miles of road decommissioning.

Council District completed the Pole Creek Vegetation Management Project Environmental Assessment (EA) and Decision Notice (DN)/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) (January 2006), which covered 0.7 square miles and identified approximately 1 mile of temporary road construction and 3.0 miles of road decommissioning.

New Meadows District completed the Muddy Squirrel Project EA and DN/FONSI (August 2006), which covered 8.1 square miles and identified 28.0 miles of road maintenance and 0.8 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.*

Accomplishments (for Objectives FROB02 and FRB05): In FY 2006, the Payette NF:

- Acquired one Cost Share Road Easement from the State of Idaho (Rd. No. 51475) and granted one Cost Share Road Easement to the State of Idaho (Rd. No. 51909);
- Received a lump sum payment from Boise Cascade/OfficeMax for deferred road maintenance charges for Cost Share Roads prior to transfer to a new landowner;
- Terminated 10 road easements formerly shared with Boise Cascade/OfficeMax and now either under sole jurisdiction of the United States or no longer needed by the United States;
- Issued 5 Road Use Permits for commercial use of NFS roads;
- Coordinated a 4-agency surface rock replacement project on the Lost Valley Reservoir Rd. No. 50089, with supplies, labor, and funding supplied by the Payette NF, the State of Idaho, Adams County, and the Idaho Department of Transportation;
- Coordinated a short-term road maintenance agreement with Valley County for additional road maintenance caused by fire suppression traffic.

In cooperation with local county governments and to clarify jurisdictional issues, the Payette NF granted Forest Roads and Trails Act (FRTA) public road easements on several roads in FY 2006. In accordance with Forest Service Manual direction (7703.3) these FRTA easements:

> Transfer the jurisdiction of a National Forest System road and associated transportation system facilities (FSM 7705) to the appropriate public transportation agency when the road meets any of the following criteria:
>
> a. More than half of the use is likely to be non-Forest Service-generated traffic.
> b. The road is necessary and used for mail, school, or other local government purposes.
> c. The road serves year-long residents within or adjacent to the National Forests.

The roads listed in Table 4 are now under County jurisdiction. Transferring the jurisdiction of these roads to the Counties opens up new funding sources to help with the estimated deferred maintenance needs of $1,191,600 for these 96 road miles and 5 bridges.

Table 4. FRTA Easements Granted and INFRA Deferred Maintenance Costs Eliminated, FY 2006

Road	County	Miles	Bridges	INFRA Deferred Maintenance
Lost Valley Reservoir Loop Road No. 50089	Adams	2.6	0	$2,600
Round Valley Road No. 50098	Adams	0.5	0	$0
Middle Fork Weiser Road No. 50186	Adams	18.2	2	$176,200
King Hill – Fall Creek Road No. 50214	Adams	2.3	1	$47,600
Six Mile – Trail Creek No. 50303	Adams	2.5	0	$0
Paddy Flat Road No. 50388	Valley	4.8	0	$456,100
Loomis Ranch Road No. 50389	Valley	5.0	0	$89,400
Sloans Point Road No. 50401	Valley	5.4	0	$94,800
Summer Home Road No. 51416	Valley	0.4	0	$0
Warren Profile Gap Road No. 50340	Valley	50.9	2	$322,400
Logan Creek Road No. 50343	Valley	3.4	0	$2,500
Totals		**96.0**	**5**	**$1,191,600**

Source: INFRA Query: Road Miles and Deferred Maintenance Costs as of Jan 1, 2006.

Payette NF staff executed two Cost Share Supplements with the State of Idaho in FY 2006. A cost share supplement is a project-specific agreement under a Master Road Right-of-Way Construction and Use Agreement by which the Government and Cooperators develop and maintain a road system serving their ownerships and sharing costs thereof.

Payette NF staff conducted annual cost share road maintenance meetings with its cooperators, the State of Idaho, and with Western Pacific Timber LLC, 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 costs for each party were reconciled at the end of FY 2006 and are on file in the Cost Share Maintenance Agreement records located in the Forest Supervisors Office.

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

Accomplishments: 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. Eleven road condition surveys were completed in FY 2006. These roads were selected by the Forest Service's Washington Office using a random sample method.

Site-specific NEPA projects in areas with roads routinely identify safety hazards and remedy them where possible.

The Payette NF classified road system includes 62 bridges, most on a 2-year inspection cycle. Forty-eight bridges were inspected in FY 2006 to determine if they support design uses and legal highway limits. Road miles and bridges surveyed are shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Roads and Bridges Surveyed, FY 2006

Type of Asset	Total Assets	Surveyed FY06	% Surveyed FY06
Objective ML 3,4,5 Roads (miles)	596	27.6	4.6
Objective ML 2 Roads (miles)	1297	20.2	1.6
Objective ML 1 Roads (miles)	1068	1.9	0.2
Road Bridges	62	48	77.4

Source: INFRA Report

In FY 2006, the Payette NF road and watershed crews maintained 281 miles of system road, decommissioned 3 miles of system road, and obliterated 17 miles of unauthorized road. Table 6 lists those road miles maintained, as reported in the 2006 Payette NF Annual Roads Accomplishment Report (ARAR). Identified resource and safety hazards were corrected during this maintenance.

Table 6. Roads Receiving Force Account Maintenance, FY 2006

Objective Maintenance Level	Total System Miles (End of FY)	Roads Receiving Maintenance (Miles)	Remarks
1	1068	6.5	Miles reported are for road closures
2	1297	93.5	
3	556	149.2	
4	36	31.5	
5	4	0	
Total Miles	**2,961**	**280.7**	
Decommissioned (System)		3.1	
Obliterated (Unauthorized)		16.7	

Source: FY 2006 Payette NF ARAR

In addition to the road miles maintained, 2.1 miles of road were constructed, 30.9 miles of road were reconstructed, and 46.8 miles of road were maintained during FY 2006 by Payette NF timber sale purchasers. These miles are from timber sales awarded in prior fiscal years. Also, 9.9 miles of Forest road were maintained by Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), a cost share cooperator, during their 2006 timber sale program. Finally, 7.6 miles of Forest roads were maintained by Idaho Power Company as per terms of a Road Use Permit.

Table 7 lists those system road miles constructed and maintained during timber sales as reported in the FY 2006 Payette NF ARAR. Identified resource and safety hazards were corrected during the maintenance.

Table 7. Road Miles Maintained by Purchasers and Cooperators, FY 2006

Maintained By	Objective Maintenance Level	Construction	Reconstruction	Maintenance
PNF Timber Sale Purchaser	1	0.5	6.2	1.9
PNF Timber Sale Purchaser	2	1.6	24.7	24.0
PNF Timber Sale Purchaser	3	0	0	3.4
IDL/IP Timber Sale Purchaser	2, 3	0	0	17.5
Total Miles		**2.1**	**30.9**	**46.8**

Source: FY 2006 Payette NF ARAR

Three timber sales were awarded in FY 2006. The 32 miles of road maintenance from these three sales and additional road maintenance from prior year sales is expected to occur in future fiscal years. Identified resource and safety hazards will be corrected during this maintenance.

Table 8. Road Miles to be Maintained by Purchasers for 2006 Awarded Sales

Objective Maintenance Level	Construction	Reconstruction	Maintenance
1	0	10.4	0
2	0	9.6	0
3	0	2.2	9.8
Total Miles	**0**	**22.2**	**9.8**

Source: FY 2006 Payette NF ARAR

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

Accomplishment: 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.*

Accomplishment: The Payette NF completed a Facility Master Plan (FMP) in 2004. The FMP evaluated existing administrative facilities and identified unneeded facilities. Unneeded facilities identified will be evaluated for disposal or decommissioning. FMP Amendment #1 was added in July 2005 and is still in effect. During FY 2006, no additional buildings were identified to be decommissioned.

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.*

Accomplishments: An open bottom arch culvert was installed on Crooked River on the Council District to restore fish passage and accommodate 100-year flow.

2.1.1.14 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 areas at the Chinook Campground where some recreation facilities should be moved away from the Secesh River to improve fisheries habitat. In 2006, project design and planning began on the project. Project design work will be done by the Regional Office engineering and design team in 2007, with project implementation to begin once the funding is secured.

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

Accomplishment: In 2002, the McCall Ranger District implemented designated dispersed camping sites along Lake Creek to mitigate unregulated camping and ATV damage along the Lake Creek banks, and continued to monitor the effectiveness of these designated sites in 2006. The site designation appears to be controlling unwanted riparian damage by vehicles.

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 Payette NF began Travel Management Planning in 2004 when the proposed action was issued to 616 members of the public. A Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the Federal Register on October 4, 2004. The draft EIS was published in early February 2006 and the comment period officially began on February 17, 2006 with the publication of the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. The comment period on the draft EIS was initially 46-days, however, it was extended an additional 46 days at the request of members of the public. Five public meetings were held in February and March of 2006, in Boise, Weiser, Council, New Meadows, and McCall. The draft EIS and accompanying maps were featured on the Payette NF website. Copies of the draft EIS and the maps were available at all Forest offices.

In 2006, the Payette NF's WWW web page was updated to include the most up-to-date information regarding all the forest campgrounds, and the primary trail systems cleared for use. The Forest also added three developed sites to the National Reservation System; Grouse Campground, Upper Payette Lake Campground, and Spring Creek Campground. This improved visitor satisfaction because of the ability to reserve a campsite ahead of time at these popular destination campgrounds.

Evergreen Campground was closed in 2004 due to an unsafe bridge. In 2006, the Forest began the redesign and reconstruction on the Evergreen Campground. The project was completed in 2007. The campground was closed for three years and the public was kept informed about its scheduled reopening via press releases.

Objective REOB09: *Maintain and acquire, under appropriate state and federal laws and Forest Service policy, water rights for the administration of recreational activities and developments, including special use authorizations.*

Accomplishment: In 2006, the Payette NF secured water rights for a new well at the Evergreen Campground through appropriate state processes.

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

Accomplishments: In 2006, use figures in all of our developed fee campgrounds so gage our occupancy rates and season of use. This is completed annually. In 2008, the National Visitor Use Survey will track the Forest-wide items in this objective.

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: The Payette NF received several grants from Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation, including Evergreen Campground Reconstruction grant, new single vault CXT grant at Huckleberry Campground, Rapid River Trail improvement grant, Bear Pete Trail construction and Trailhead improvement grant, and Smokey Boulder Road CXT grants.

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 2006:

- Huckleberry Campground: New accessible tables at all sites and a new accessible CXT, new graveled and leveled parking site pads.
- Cabin Creek Campground: New accessible tables at all sites.
- Kennally Campground: Several new accessible fire rings.
- Secesh Campground: New accessible tables at all sites.

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.*

Accomplishment: In FY 2006, Payette NF staff continued with the environmental analysis for the Forest's revised Travel Management Plan. The project would designate a system of roads and trails for use in summer and routes and areas open to oversnow vehicles in winter. The Forest Interdisciplinary (ID) team identified four alternatives (including "No Action") and analyzed the effects of the alternatives. Significant issues analyzed in the draft EIS included effects to recreation opportunities, water quality, fisheries, and wildlife. The draft EIS was released for public review in February 2006. The remainder of the year was spent responding to comments on the draft and developing the final EIS, which included an additional alternative.

Objective 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 Payette NF, facilitated by a cost agreement between Valley County, Payette NF, and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation IDPR). In 2006, the annual operating plan was reviewed and updated to allow for another year of trail grooming.

In 2006 the Nordic trails at Bear Basin were developed and opened. They were designed and approved by the McCall Ranger District and were put under permit to Payette Lake Ski Club to maintain and groom the trails. Over 15 K were developed and maintained during the year one. The parking areas for these trails were located on private land until further analysis could be completed for a parking lot on FS lands near-by.

Objective 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 backcountry recreation without any noted wildlife concerns to date.

Objective 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 facilitated the operations of the Payette Avalanche Center and in 2006 was funded to conduct both educational awareness classes and conduct three forecasts per week on avalanche conditions. Forecasts were posted on the Payette NF avalanche web page. Educational awareness classes were accomplished by both Forest Service employees and Friends of the Avalanche Center partners.

2.1.1.15 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; and

The gaps in our knowledge about the prehistory and history of the Forest. Maintain associated databases, atlases, and files on the Forest.

Accomplishments: The Heritage Program completed a draft of the Payette NF Historic Overview in August 1996. Information is added as needed. In addition, information on historic properties has been input into the INFRA database. 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.*

Accomplishments: 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 and hardcopy file for each site. Historic inhumations are monitored and demarcation fences are maintained.

Objective HPOB04: *Develop a pro-active program of cultural resource management consistent with federal guidelines for the implementation of Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).*

Accomplishments: The Payette NF's Heritage Program's main focus is compliance with the NHPA Section 106 and 110 obligations. (For more information see Section 2.2.2.11 Stewardship of Historic Properties.)

Objective HPOB05: *Maintain an ongoing inventory to locate and identify historic properties on National Forest System lands.*

Accomplishments: The Payette NF's Heritage staff maintains a cultural resource inventory to locate and identify historic properties on the Payette NF. Since 1988, the Heritage Program has added 970 new historic properties the inventory list. The Heritage Program identifies approximately 48 historic properties annually.

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.*

Accomplishments: The Payette's Heritage Program has two predictive models to guide the design and completion of cultural resource inventories. The first predictive model was developed by Lee Bennett in 1986. This model was effective and continues to be used. However, it does not have computer programmed quantifiable measures. The second predictive model developed by Gayle Dixon in 2005 has computer programmed quantifiable measures used with a GIS layer. Both models have qualities that are combined to meet the design for the continuation for all future cultural resource inventories.

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

Accomplishment: At the time a cultural resource is identified, National Register of Historic Places criteria is used is evaluating each historic property. This has been an ongoing procedure in the Heritage Program since 1988. For those historic properties pre-dating 1988 the evaluation process continues. (For more information see Section 2.2.2.11 Stewardship of Historic Properties.)

Objective HPOB08: *Nominate historic properties for listing on the National Register of Historic Places when necessary for management purposes. Prepare management plans for each listed property.*

Accomplishment: The Payette NF has 16 historic properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Since 2000, three other historic properties have been nominated. Management plans have been prepared for four NRHP listed properties within the Payette Unit of the FCRONR Wilderness, titled "Historic Building Preservation Plan, USDA Payette National Forest Administrative Sites Located in the FCRONR Wilderness, February 2004.

Objective HPOB09: *Protect historic properties through stabilization and monitoring efforts. Monitor historic properties that may be adversely affected by management activities.*

Accomplishment: There has been one building stabilization project that has been ongoing for several years taking place at the NRHP listed Council Ranger Station. The Council Ranger Station has six contributing buildings one of which is the Visitor's Center, the former Council District Ranger's Office.
Objective HPOB10: *Curate artifacts and records, and make them available for study by qualified researchers.*

Accomplishment: Prehistoric artifacts and historic period records have been curated and continued to be maintained to standard. (For more information see Section 2.2.2.11 Stewardship of Historic Properties.)

Objective HPOB11: *Prioritize and protect the most significant historic properties. Maintain a catalogue of priority heritage assets and endangered sites.*

Accomplishment: The Payette's Heritage Program has prioritized the most significant historic properties and created two references as follows:

- *Inventory of Historic & Non-Historic Buildings on the Payette National Forest, Idaho*, December 1999 by Wayne Hersel.

- *Properties Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and on the National Historic Lookout Register*, USDA Payette National Forest, Idaho, March 22, 2005, by Lawrence a. Kingsbury.

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

Accomplishments: Historic property site reports and project records are maintained throughout the year are kept in hardcopy files in the Payette NF Supervisor's Office. These files date back to 1975.

Objective HPOB13: *Increase public awareness, involvement, and appreciation of outstanding heritage accomplishments through the expansion of stewardship programs.*

Accomplishment: The most frequently used public awareness heritage product pertains to the historic monographs produced by the Heritage Program. Historical monographs present short stories of local history and results of certain archaeological excavations and discoveries. (For more information see Section 2.2.2.11 Stewardship of Historic Properties.)

Objective HPOB14: *Involve interested parties during the initial stages of project planning about undertakings that may affect historic properties.*

Accomplishments: Through the NEPA analysis process, the public is informed with disclosure documents and invitations to provide comment. Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) provides comment and all federal actions taking place annually. Tribes are given the opportunity to comment through technical and formal consultations.

Objective HPOB15: *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.*

Accomplishment: The Heritage Program supervises programs using volunteers in Heritage Management Projects annually.

Objective HPOB16: *Expand partnerships with individuals, local communities, and academic and private sector institutions to protect cultural resources and involve and educate the public.*
Accomplishment: In FY 2006, Payette NF Heritage staff had three participating agreements with the public involving heritage projects taking place on the Payette NF. Agreements in place were with the Taylor Ranch, Salmon River Chapter of the Idaho Archeological Society, and Forest Fire Lookout Association.

2.1.1.16 TRIBAL RIGHTS AND INTEREST

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.*

Accomplishment: Three federally recognized American Indian Tribes have expressed interest in land and resource management activities on the Payette National Forest:

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

The list of Tribal Contacts & Addresses is updated as often as needed, at least annually. This documents who contacts are for each Tribe and is used by Payette NF staff who have responsibility to communicate with their resources piers and for line officers communicating with Tribal leaders. Each Tribe has their own appropriate communication protocol.

Nez Perce Tribe: Formal and informal annual meetings have been taking place with the Nez Perce Tribe since 1986. In 2006, District and Forest officials visited the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee and staff regularly to present and seek comments on upcoming project proposals.

Shoshone-Paiute Tribes: Formal and informal annual meetings have been taking place with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley since 1998. In 2006, the Payette continued to participate in monthly or bi-monthly in "Wings and Roots" facilitated gatherings with representatives of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes to present and seek comments on upcoming project proposals.

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes: Government-to-government consultation has taken place occasionally with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall since 1998.

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.*

Accomplishment: Each of the three Tribes is consulted, either formal or technical, regarding management actions on the Payette National Forest. These management actions vary in size and intensity, but there is an opportunity for each of the three Tribes to voice issues and concerns. On the Payette NF, the South Fork of the Salmon River fisheries is a primary concern for all three Tribes. The Tribes have expressed a desire to 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.

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.*

Accomplishment: The Tribes do not want their Traditional Cultural Properties 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.*

Accomplishment: 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.

The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley conduct 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.

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

Accomplishment: The Payette National Forest and the Nez Perce Tribe have a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) pertaining to the fisheries management program. There is another MOU pertaining to camping without paying fees on the Payette National Forest. 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 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.

2.1.1.17 WILDERNESS, RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS, AND INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREAS

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

The Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness (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 2006, the Krassel and McCall Ranger Districts, and Forest Heritage archeologist accomplished work as identified in the 2003 FCRONR Wilderness Management Plan, and Programmatic agreement for managing heritage resources in the FCRONR Wilderness. Heritage survey work was accomplished, included trash clean-up, dispersed campsite monitoring, and airstrip monitoring. The FCRONR Wilderness has a lead working group and Board of Directors that met 4 times in 2006 to review plan accomplishments and challenges to work on for the following year. Identifying water development trespass cases was identified as a priority work task for 2006.

2.1.1.18 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 was found suitable for Wild and Scenic designation in 2003. All projects proposed along the river segments on the Payette NF are reviewed to assure activities do not negatively affect the rivers Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs). IDFG has an old antenna located along the SFSR, approximately 1 mile below the mouth of the confluence with the Secesh (Hamilton Creek). This antenna warrants removal as it is no longer in use and does not meet the visual Forest Plan along the scenic corridor. SFSR float boaters are required to obtain a permit to float the river and in 2006 there were 165 permitted floaters in 25 groups. There is no commercial authorized use of the SFSR or the Secesh River.

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

2.1.1.19 RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS (RNAS)

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

Accomplishment: In FY 2006, discussions occurred with the Regional Office, the Rocky Mountain Research Station, and the Forest Service Washington Office (through the Regional Office) for processes and procedures for completing management plans. The Payette NF staff also investigated methodologies for management plans and for changes in management prescriptions (primarily for wildland fire use and prescribed fire) from other Forests. Visits to RNAs continued for a better understanding among Forest and other interested personnel on RNA management needs. This included a visit to Bear Creek RNA with Rocky Mountain Research Station personnel to assess management needs and any effects from Bear Tornado.

2.1.1.20 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.*

Accomplishments: Payette NF employees worked with many individuals and groups in an effort to enhance public involvement in Forest Activities. Opportunities were 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 National Forest. The group, which is facilitated by Forest Service employees, is comprised of local business owners, personnel from Idaho Parks and Recreation Department, and both motorized and non-motorized winter recreation users. This group has worked together to help resolve issues between winter recreation user groups.

During FY 2006, the Payette National Forest hosted two Youth Conservation Crews (YCC). Crews helped to accomplish project across the National Forest while learning about nature and natural resource management. Additional, the Payette National Forest hosted volunteers to host Forest Service campground and clear trails through the Adopt-a-Trail program. Payette National Forest 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 FY 2006. The Payette National Forest worked with the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation to fund improvements to recreation opportunities on the Payette National Forest.

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 this public involvement, which provides the public and opportunity to participate, for all our projects. Thirty four NEPA decisions were made on the Payette National Forest in FY 2004 and FY 2005. Twenty five NEPA decision were made on the Payette National Forest in FY 2006. Public involvement was conducted on all of these projects. Additionally, projects with later decision dates include, but are not limited to, the Payette National Forest Travel Management EIS, Bear Tornado Project, South Fork Salmon River Noxious Weed Treatment, and the Yellow Pine and Eiguren Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project had some public involvement during FY 2006.

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 then projected.

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 9 illustrates how the actual allocation for FY 2006 compares with the predicted Forest Plan budget level, by program area.

Table 9. Predicted Versus Actual Forest Budget Levels FY 2006. (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	Percent Difference for FY06 from predicted level
BDBD	Brush Disposal	$79,510	$109,262	$66,404	$115,000	145%
CMFC/CMII	Facility Construction and Deferred Maintenance	$632,873	$612,771	$366,845	$662,447	105%
CMRD	Road Construction and Maintenance	$1,370,254	$1,270,929	$1,286,049	$1,430,598	104%
CMTL	Trail Construction and Maintenance	$301,219	$273,269	$250,895	$208,443	69%
CWKV	Coop Work, KV	$1,091,546	$811,518	$712,647	$800,000	73%
NFIM	Inventory and Monitoring	$442,160	$460,183	$586,839	$369,035	83%
NFLM	Land and Ownership Management	$308,546	$267,594	$216,859	$192,937	62%
NFMG	Minerals and Geology	$307,785	$297,727	$512,284	$386,692	126%
NFPN	Land Management Planning	$502,769	$185,179	$67,773	$172,567	34%
NFRG	Grazing Management	$304,207	$434,646	$525,926	$337,163	111%
NFRW	Recreation/HR/Wilderness	$733,522	$741,141	$851,800	$931,288	127%
NFTM	Forest Products	$2,522,000	$1,858,269	$2,033,266	$1,963,927	78%
NFVW	Vegetation and Water	$873,338	$905,771	$1,063,720	$1,846,161	211%
NFWF	Wildlife and Fisheries Management	$555,627	$455,816	$447,120	$802,941	145%

Table 9, cont. Predicted Versus Actual Forest Budget Levels FY 2006. (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	Percent Difference for FY06 from predicted level
RBRB	Range Betterment	$33,812	$31,430	$45,690	$42,448	126%
RTRT	Reforestation Trust Fund	$293,666	$321,067	$394,144	$1,159,809	395%
SSSS	Salvage Sale	$2,743,302	$1,749,194	$921,896	$200,000	7%
WFHF	Hazardous Fuels	$1,427,000	$1,249,727	$883,167	$1,641,933	115%
WFPR	Fire Preparedness	$7,322,256	$6,279,224	$6,166,000	$5,311,785	73%
	Total	**$21,845,392**	**$18,314,717**	**$17,399,324**	**$18,575,174**	**85%**

2.1.3 Evaluation of Population Trends

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

Table 10 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 10. 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, 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

[1] In 2006, as part of the Wildlife Conservation Strategy (see WIOB03 above), extensive literature reviews were conducted for various species of interest including MIS. Base on these reviews, the habitat of MIS bird species was revised in Table 10 above from that disclosed in the Forest Plan and in the 2004 and 2005 monitoring plans.

2.1.3.1 POPULATION TREND MONITORING FOR BULL TROUT

Background: The population trends and relative viability of bull trout on the Forest were evaluated and a white paper completed (Burns et al. 2005). Among the conclusions in the white paper is a correlation between road density and low bull trout viability. In the Payette River drainage, bull trout are no longer present. In the Weiser River basin, viability is low with an inferred long-term declining trend; individual populations on the West Side of the Forest are monitored annually and no change in trend has been detected. In the Salmon River basin, the overall distribution of bull trout is incompletely understood and extent to which bull trout viability is affected by hybridization with brook trout is unknown. In 2005, the Payette NF initiated a study of the extent of detrimental effect of brook trout on bull trout viability in the Salmon River Basin in cooperation with the Rocky Mountain Research Station, which also includes development of a model that includes stream temperature to be used to predict bull trout occurrence in unsampled watersheds and likelihood of persistence if stream temperatures change.

Accomplishments: In 2006, field work on this project began with increased deployment density of thermographs in the Secesh River watershed.

2.1.3.2 POPULATION TREND MONITORING FOR PILEATED AND WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKERS

Background: The Payette NF MIS monitoring strategy is designed to provide a measure of the population trend for two management indicator species: pileated woodpecker and white-headed woodpecker. In addition, the strategy can be used to investigate relationships between MIS presence, habitat conditions, and management actions across the landscape.

The monitoring strategy adopted by the Payette NF is based on standardized bird monitoring methods (i.e., Hamel et. al. 1996 and Ralph et. al. 1993), and the same monitoring strategy is being applied on the Boise and Sawtooth National Forests. As such, the data collected from any one unit becomes not only relevant to its particular Forest, but may contribute to larger data sets which allow monitoring trends to be evaluated at multi-forest or larger scales.

Monitoring began in 2003 for white-headed woodpecker and in 2004 for pileated woodpecker. The sampling design uses 25 transect of ten points each resulting. Points were located in suitable habitat within the historic range of each species across the Forest. Habitat measurements are recorded at each point and changes evaluated over time. The historical range for the white-headed woodpecker includes the west side of the Forest, while the historic range for the pileated woodpecker is Forest-wide.

Accomplishment: In 2006, the Payette NF updated the monitoring protocol to include additional information pertinent to the monitoring effort. This information included descriptions from the Boise NF monitoring protocol and vegetation measurement direction and forms.

Table 11 summarizes the results of the white-headed woodpecker surveys and Table 12 summarizes the results of the pileated woodpecker surveys.

Table 11. Payette National Forest White-Headed Woodpecker Survey Results

Year	Transects Monitored	Sightings by Transect	Number of Points Monitored	Number of Sightings by Points
2003			250	3
2004			250	0
2005			260	1
2006	25	3	250	2

Table 12. Payette National Forest Pileated Woodpecker Survey Results

Year	Transects Monitored	Sightings by Transect	Number of Points Monitored	Number of Sightings by Points
2003			250	3
2004			210	14
2005			250	6
2006	25	8	250	10

2.1.4 Evaluation of Watershed Restoration

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

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 Soil, Water, Riparian, Aquatic (SWRA) 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

The ACS incorporates the monitoring goals identified in the ICBEMP Implementation Strategy and associated MOU.

Work Completed and Findings: In FY 2006, there was a total of 26 restoration target units reported accomplished in ACS subwatersheds. This represents a total of 35 percent of the reported targets. Table 13 displays the FY 2006 accomplishments.

Table 13. Accomplishments in ACS Priority Watersheds

Project Name	Subwatershed Name and HUC Number	Acres of Soil and Water Resources Improved	Miles of Road Decom.	Miles of Stream Habitat Enhanced	WARS Priority	ACS Priority
Little Weiser Vegetation Mgmt	Anderson Creek #170501240702	18	6		Mod	Yes
Little Weiser Vegetation Mgmt	Anderson Creek #170501240702		1		Mod	Yes
Stibnite CERCLA – Meadow Creek	Upper EFSRFR #170602080201			1	High	Yes
Total		**18**	**7**	**1**		

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 NMFS as provided in Section 7(a) of the Endangered Species Act.

The BO on the Forest Plan from NMFS dated June 9, 2003, contains a number of terms and conditions (See Table 14). Project implementation needs to be in compliance with those terms and conditions.

2.1.5.1 FISHERIES CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

In the Table 14, 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 2006.

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

The NMFS biological opinion (Term and Condition 3.B.1.) for the 2003 Forest Plans required the Payette and Boise NFs to revise the default sediment watershed condition indicator (WCI) values to something more appropriate for the South Fork Salmon River (SFSR).

Table 14. Compliance with Terms and Conditions for Reasonable & Prudent Measures Required by NMFS Fisheries

Terms and Conditions	Compliance in 2006
# 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. Completion of adjustments to sediment WCIs were completed in 2005 with cooperation of the Boise NF, NMFS, and USFWS after peer review.
D. Fire Management – Develop operational resource guidelines prior to 2004 season	For fire, also see TEOB23 above. In FY 2006, retardant was delivered to Vein Creek (East Fork SFSR) but no effects to listed species were observed.
# 2 – To Implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure #2, maintain link between LRMP and Broadscale restoration/recovery strategies, the Forest Service shall:	
A. IIT – Provide oversight and accountability body linking to IIT	In FY 2006, 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. However, the baseline was updated for the section 7 watershed BAs in order to be consistent with the development of the Framework document. This represents no change from that reported in the FY 2006 report.
# 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 FY 2006, no equivalent clearcut area (ECA) increases were planned over 15%.
B. In the South Fork Salmon River (SFSR):	
1. Revise the default WCIs to values appropriate for the Subbasin	Completed. See FY 2005 report.
2. Continue sampling, analysis, and annual reporting of sediment levels.	Sampling occurred in 2006. Reports of sediment conditions through 2005 were produced in 2006 (Nelson et al. 2006; Nelson 2006; Nelson et al. 2006).
3. Projects must meet criteria if even a negligible likelihood to adversely effect	Actions at Meadow Creek are being monitored to assure that mitigation measures are effective. Fisheries biologists on the Forest continued preparation of biological assessments of ongoing Forest actions (principally programmatic actions) because the current Letters of Concurrence expire at the end of calendar year 2006.

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 SFSR 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 Fisk, 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 NF 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

Although this section appeared in the 2004 Monitoring Report, it does not appear in the 2006 Monitoring Report because the components are conservation measures, not terms and conditions, and thus do not have a mandatory reporting requirement.

2.2 ANNUAL OR THREE-YEAR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FROM TABLE IV-2

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 summarizes the findings for those elements required annually as well as those with three-year reporting requirements.

2.2.1 Annual Monitoring Requirements

2.2.1.1 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 2006, condition inspections were completed on 63 administrative buildings and 29 recreation buildings. Sanitary surveys were completed on 4 potable water systems, 2 administrative waste water systems, and 2 recreation wastewater systems. The requirement for inspecting 20% of facilities was met.

2.2.1.2 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: (For the FY 2006 report, the Forest only reports on water systems). The water systems in the developed campgrounds were tested on a monthly basis. Cabin Creek Campground water system remained closed in 2006 due to poor water quality and bad water test results.

The well was re-developed and a new hand pump was installed in September 2006. A new concrete pad was installed on the well in Big Flat Campground. The well at Kennally Campground was re-developed and a new hand pump was installed in September 2006 to improve water quality. All developed campground's water systems had required sanitary surveys and inspections completed on schedule. All test results were entered into INFRA Water Sampling data base.

2.2.1.3 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).

Work Completed: In 2006, the Heritage Program reviewed 97 federal actions for their potential to affect historic properties. Seventy-two of these federal actions had formal consultation with the Idaho SHPO. Some federal actions, including livestock range allotment environmental analysis, required ongoing consultation with additional requirements to be completed during following year(s). Variables in completing some federal actions depended upon annual funding or changing priorities.

Summary of the Findings: FY 2006 projects implemented on the Payette NF with historic properties received formal reviews and consultation with the Idaho SHPO. Nearly all projects with cultural resources were monitored during or after implementation. Project implementation in 2006 caused no affects to historic properties. In August 2006, there was one federal action that potentially impacted a historic property and is currently being reviewed.

2.2.1.4 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 2006, there were a total of 75 restoration target units reported accomplished. Fifteen percent of these activities were conducted in low priority WARS watersheds, 60 percent in moderate priority watersheds, and 20 percent in high priority watersheds (Table 15).

Table 15. Watershed and Road Restoration Completed in ACS Priority and Other Subwatersheds

Project Name	Subwatershed Name and HUC Number	Acres of Soil and Water Resources Improved	Miles of Road Decom.	Miles of Stream Habitat Enhanced	WARS Priority	ACS Priority
Middle Little Salmon	Mud Creek #170602100102	9	0		Mod	No
Middle Little Salmon	Mud Creek #170602100102		2		Mod	No
Meadows Slope Wildland Fire	Upper Goose Cr. #170602100105	6	2		Mod	No
Meadows Slope Wildland Fire	Upper Goose Cr. #170602100105		1		Mod	No
Brownlee - Seid Timber Sale	Brownlee Creek #170502010404	4	1		Low	No

Project Name	Subwatershed Name and HUC Number	Acres of Soil and Water Resources Improved	Miles of Road Decom.	Miles of Stream Habitat Enhanced	WARS Priority	ACS Priority
Little Weiser Vegetation Mgmt	Anderson Creek #170501240702	18	6		Mod	Yes
Little Weiser Vegetation Mgmt	Anderson Creek #170501240702		1		Mod	Yes
Burgdorf Roads – CA Jeep Trail	California Creek #170602090803	11		4	High	No
Idaho Power Line Mitigation	Beaver Creek #170501240102	10		1	Low	No
Stibnite CERCLA – Meadow Creek	Upper EFSRFR #170602080201			1	High	Yes
Total		**57**	**13**	**5**		

2.2.2 Three Year Monitoring Requirements

2.2.2.1 DISCLOSURE OF MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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: There were 60 project NEPA decisions during FY40-FY06. These were primarily decision memos for special use permits. There were 8 decisions documented in a decision notice or record of decision, however, as of September, 30 2006, only one of these projects (Tamarack Thin) had been implemented.

In order to determine if actions and effects are being adequately disclosed in NEPA documents, monitoring must occur on projects that are mostly or totally implemented. Project level monitoring did occur in FY 2004 on 3 projects and in FY 2005 on 5 projects. No project level monitoring for Forest Plan compliance occurred in FY 2006 occurred due to the large wildfires and the helicopter crash fatalities. Results of annual project-level monitoring are summarized in Section 2.3 of the FY 2004 and FY 2005 Monitoring and Evaluation Reports.

Review of these annual project monitoring and supporting documentation indicate that most actions have been implemented as described in the associated NEPA documents and that impacts of the actions observed appear to fall within the range of expected effects. Examples of this situation include the Parks Eiguren Prescribed Burn and Hazard Creek Campground Reconstruction. The Quartz Creek Mine Reclamation project was implemented as planned with one exception. Due to new information regarding bull trout redds, the planned bridge replacement did not occur. Once redds were discovered, the effects of that portion of the action were no longer acceptable.

Monitoring also identified situations were actions, including design features and mitigation measures were implemented as planned and remained consistent with Forest Plan direction, but the outcome resulted in new information for implementation for similar projects. This was regarding the size of coarse woody debris (CWD) remaining after project implementation. Project level monitoring indicated that although there was the correct amount remaining on the ground, there should have been additional larger pieces of CWD.
Monitoring of the Secesh Wildland Urban Interface project indicated that the project was implemented as designed and effects were within the expected range, however, the project objectives were only partially

met. Project activity prescriptions did not allow for enough thinning to fully meet the project objectives, however, they were designed in order to limit environmental effects.

To correct improper design feature implementation on future projects, it will be important that project planning and implementation teams work together more closely to develop and review key design features. This includes working closely both during project planning and project implementation. This ensures that as new information is available, necessary adjustments to project design and implementation can be made.

2.2.2.2 TRIBAL PARTICIPATION WITH THE FOREST

Monitoring Question: *Are current processes meeting the needs for consultation?*

Indicator: Program reviews and personal contacts.

Work Completed and Findings: Coordination is occurring with all three tribes on a regular basis, depending according to established protocol for each Tribe and their level of concern for project activities. All three Tribes are contacted several times during the planning phase of most environmental analyses. For projects that may be of concern, extra efforts are made including phone calls and consultation meetings. See all responses to Tribal Rights and Interests Objectives.

2.2.2.3 COORDINATION WITH TRIBES

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: These areas are considered in every project. Tribes are contacted during the planning phase of all projects on the Payette NF. Areas they identify as a special interest area or traditional cultural property are protected and maintained. As stated in the response to Objective TROB04 (Tribal Rights and Interests), 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."

2.2.2.4 STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION WITH THE FOREST

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

Indicator: Program reviews and personal contact.

Work Completed and Findings: 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 newspaper of record for very minor projects to mailings and public meetings for the much larger scale projects. County commissioners and local government officials are invited to participate in all planning projects. Cooperating agency status is granted, when requested. During FY 2006, both Adams and Valley County were granted cooperating agency status on planning projects. Thirty-four NEPA decisions were made on the Payette NF in FY 2004 and FY 2005. Twenty-five NEPA decision were made on the Payette NF in FY 2006. Public

involvement was conducted on all of these projects. Additionally, projects with later decision dates include, but are not limited to, the Payette NF Travel Management EIS, Bear Tornado Project, South Fork Salmon River Noxious Weed Treatment, and the Yellow Pine and Eiguren Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project had varying levels of public involvement during FY 2006.

2.2.2.5 RECREATION USE CONFLICTS

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

Indicator: Comments or complaints from users; number of citations related to closure orders.

Work Completed and Findings: Recreational conflicts, especially those surrounding winter use, are rising on the Forest. 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. In 2006, the draft EIS was released for forest-wide travel planning, both summer and winter. The remainder of 2006 was spent analyzing comments on the draft EIS and writing the final EIS.

During the winter of 2006, the McCall Ranger District recreation staff compile a photo and written log on snowmobilers violating the non-motorized area closures. These reports are completed annually and reside at the Ranger District.

Also documented with photos (available at the Forest Supervisor's Office Recreation Department) is ATV damage from off-road use throughout the Forest. ATV use and their popularity among recreationists has grown, bringing with it conflicts noted in 2004, 2005 and 2006 during hunting season between hunters using non-motorized ways to hunt, and hunters using motorized equipment to access areas and hunt. New machines have enabled motorized users to go into terrain and areas previously inaccessible to motorized vehicles, and this has caused game to be moved around, and conflicts among hunters.

2.2.2.6 DISPERSED RECREATION USE AND DISTRIBUTION

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

Indicator: Site inventory and use survey.

Work Completed and Findings: This monitoring element pertains to dispersed use in the summer months. The Payette National Forest is known for its dispersed recreation opportunities, both in the summer and in the winter months. Camping impacts due to general camping are heaviest in July and August and in September and October from concentrated hunting use. ATV use out of these sites has caused numerous user created trails leaving the dispersed sites. Impacts to areas caused by dispersed camping have been growing in the Mann's Creek area on the Weiser Ranger District, in the South Fork along the SFSR road and along the river corridors of the Secesh, EFSF and South Fork road in part due to the lack of following through with designating campsites along the South Fork, and not keeping up with recreation demand along the other river corridors by providing developed recreation sites for resource protection. People continue to come to these areas to camp; many of them are without sanitation facilities.
On the New Meadows and McCall Ranger Districts, impacts from dispersed camping have continued, but not necessarily increased along Goose Lake Road in the Brundage Reservoir/Goose Lake areas. Use in

the Bear Basin area is increasing. Problems have occurred in this area by transients camping past the 18 day stay limit because of the proximity to the town of McCall, and limited to no affordable housing for the seasonal workers coming into the area. On the McCall Ranger District, 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.

With the development of the Tamarack Resort, additional impacts are expected to develop in the Council Mountain area as use spills over from the resort into the back county of Council Mountain.

To address dispersed use, the Forest is participating in the Nation-wide recreation visitor use survey, which counts use in Developed sites, Wilderness, and GFA – General Forest Areas (dispersed recreation), yearlong. This is occurring on a 5-year reporting period; the Forest completed it in 2002-2003 and will begin again FY2008.

2.2.2.7 ACTUAL DAILY AND SEASONAL USE VERSUS USE CAPACITY

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

Indicator: Ski area attendance reports, annual reports from special uses.

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. There will be a count of ski passes sold and interviews with users as to their satisfaction with the facilities during the 2008 National Visitor Use Monitoring survey.

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 Payette NF, and is heavily used from November's first snow thru March. This new use has prompted the construction of a parking lot at Bear Basin that will also accommodate summer mountain biking. The re-development of the alpine ski school, which is once again active, has brought new vitality to the alpine area at Little Ski Hill. This has brought increased number of skiers to the Little Ski Hill the past two years running, and this use is expected to continue. In FY 2006, skier visits at Brundage Mountain Resort was report at 119,119 and visits to the Little Ski Hill was reported at 2,183.

In 2006, there were 12 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 three years. McCall Ranger District has two ski area permits (see above) and seven outfitter guide special use permits. This number varies each year, but has remained fairly constant. The Weiser and Council Ranger Districts have two outfitter and guide permits, one is associated with the Tamarack Resort. The Forest issues approximately three temporary recreation use event permits each year, this number has stayed constant over the three year period.

2.2.2.8 DEVELOPED SITE USE AND DISTRIBUTION, AND RESOURCE IMPACTS TO SITES

Indicator: Use INFRA-Database to track site specific use data.

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 Payette NF are experiencing a slight increase in use between 2003 and 2006. Developed Recreation sites consist of both fee sites and non-fee sites. The Forest completed its 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: 2005 – 2006 showed a slight decrease in use at the seven developed fee campgrounds on the district, because the majority of the developed sites along the South Fork River were closed due to fires in the South Fork drainage, and access into the remaining sites was problematic. Use looks like it is declining in the South Fork Campgrounds, but actually, what has happened is that the campgrounds are filled with tribal members during the month of July for fishing season. Tribal members tend to not register at the campsites, and the district recreation staff cannot track accurate use figures in these campgrounds. Impacts to fisheries, soils, and heritage resources are occurring at the non-fee sites, such as Deadman Bar and the Indian Point, due to moderate recreation use, with no formal developed recreation facilities. Plans are in development phases to improve both of these sites and restrict use to defined areas.

McCall and New Meadows Ranger Districts: Over the past three years, many site improvements have been completed at the fourteen campgrounds (includes fee and non-fee sites) 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. Impacts to fisheries and soils have been identified at the Chinook Campground, and plans are in development to improve this site to benefit fisheries by pulling back developed sites, eliminating some overnight sites adjacent to the river, hardening the road bed, and improving the parking situation at the trailhead for Loon Lake, which will designate parking areas and eliminate random parking. Some resource impacts to the lakeshore have been identified at the popular Upper Payette Lake dispersed camping area adjacent to the developed fee sites. The McCall District is working on a plan to better delineate camping areas, and add some barrier rock to designate some camping.

Council and Weiser Ranger Districts: Campground collections have steadily increased on the West Zone, approximately 20% per year from 2004 – 2006. The condition of all campgrounds on the unit improved with facilities being updated and accessibility improved at five recreation fee campgrounds. Evergreen Campground was closed the entire 2006 season due to lack of access across a condemned bridge. The bridge was reconstructed in 2006, and the campground will be reconstructed and reopen in 2007. No harmful effects to resource values have been noted from developed site recreational use at this time.

2.2.2.9 LEVEL OF TRAIL MAINTENANCE RELATIVE TO TRAIL USE

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

Indicator: Trail counters and MARS for trail construction/reconstruction or maintenance. (Note: MARS was an accomplishment target reporting method the Payette NF used during the development of

the Forest Plan. This method is no longer used however target accomplishments are still reported every year.)

Work Completed and Findings: Trails are not being maintained for anticipated levels of use, the budget has been too low over the past three years. Instead, only the mainline trails across the Forest are maintained. The public has complained about the lack of trail maintenance. Crews are maintaining and clearing trails, but because of past wildfires throughout the Forest, there is a lot of blow down occurring, 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. IDPR 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 2005 and 2006 the Forest accomplished building 2 miles of new trail construction.

Forest trail accomplishments:

- FY 2004 - 258 miles of trail maintained and 1 mile of trail construction.
- FY 2005 - 307 miles of trail maintained and 1 mile of new trail built using allocated funds.
- FY 2006 - 240 miles of trail maintained and 1 mile of ATV trail built using allocated funds.

On a high note, progress has been made on the trail system in Hells Canyon over the past two years (2005 and 2006) using allocated dollars, Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) dollars and IDPR grant dollars. Trails that had been unmaintained for over 10 years were maintained and reconstructed. Trail bridge structures were built to facilitate creek crossings along these improved trails, and the trails were signed.

On the Krassel Ranger District, in 2005 and 2006, most dollars allocated to the District went directly to the maintenance of the FCRONR Wilderness trail system. Grant dollars went toward funding youth crews to perform specific heavy duty maintenance projects along mainline trails.

2.2.2.10 POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO VISUAL RESOURCES

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

Indicator: Monitoring project areas from sensitive viewpoints.

Work Completed and Findings: Since loosing the Forest Landscape Architect to retirement in 1999, the Boise NF Landscape Architect has been completing the landscape assessments for complex Payette NF 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.

2.2.2.11 STEWARDSHIP OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Monitoring Question: *Are historic properties being managed to standard?*

Indicator: Condition of historic properties.

Work Completed and Findings: During FY 2006 Heritage Stewardship activities for the Payette NF focused upon the management of cultural resources in the FCRONR Wilderness. An eight year programmatic agreement (PA) between the Forest Service and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office was signed in May of 2003 by four Forest Supervisors. This PA provided a list of Heritage Program Activities with as to how cultural resources were to be managed in the FCRONR Wilderness. Specific directions included:

- Meet requirements of Section 110 of the NHPA and the Historic Preservation Plan.
- Complete determinations of eligibility for all cultural properties.
- Utilize GIS and database technologies to track and analyze site locations, improve upon site identification strategies and to develop predictive models to guide inventories and evaluations.
- All cultural resources are to be mapped onto GIS and entered into the database.
- All newly identified cultural resources are to be reported upon the Idaho Archaeological Survey form.
- Conduct problem-oriented inventories and studies in upland portions of the FCRONR Wilderness that have had little previous study.
- Support and emphasize scientific research and public education through partnerships. The Heritage Program developed two participating agreements in 2006. One participating agreement was with the University of Idaho Taylor Ranch and the other was with the Forest Fire Lookout Association-Salmon River Mountains Chapter. Both participating agreements were implemented with staff from both groups during the summers of 2006 and 2007.
- Educate visitors using off-site brochures. The Heritage Program has approximately 25 different historic oriented brochures available to the public and upon request.

Results are annually reported to the Idaho SHPO.

2.2.2.12 GATHERING ACTIVITIES ON THE FOREST

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

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

Work Completed and Findings: In FY 2006, The Payette NF sold approximately 2.3 MMBF of wood products (fuelwood, posts and poles, house logs, etc.).

2.2.2.13 BOTANICAL SPECIES OF CONCERN, WATCH SPECIES, AND SENSITIVE SPECIES

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: Approximately 1/8th of an acre of occupied *Ceanothus prostratus* habitat was destroyed on the Council District when dispersed recreational campers removed protective barriers from around a plant population and used the area for camping and vehicle parking.

Because surveys are done before Forest activities are implemented, rare plant populations have been avoided during forest management activities.

2.2.2.14 SOIL PRODUCTIVITY

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

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

Work Completed and Findings: The results of NEPA reviews and the inclusion of project level mitigation measures/project specific design features that are implemented for projects help to identify the compliance with Forest Plan standards for TSRC (SWST03) and for DD (SWST02). The intent of the Forest Plan standards for long-term soil productivity is to maintain and/or improve soil productivity during the planning and implementation of ground disturbing activities.

Current conditions of TSRC are calculated during the NEPA process. The calculation determines whether TSRC levels must be maintained below 5 percent within activity area(s) (for activity areas where current conditions are below 5 percent) or whether levels must be improved toward a 5 percent level (for activity areas where current conditions are above 5 percent). The creation of new areas of TSRC is generally minimized and reductions in TSRC are implemented through the decommissioning/obliteration of roads, landings, designated skid trails, etc.

During 2004-2006, the following road decommissioning projects in the following areas, which returned 50.2 miles (over 150 acres) to productivity were implemented and monitored for effectiveness:

- Anderson Creek
- Burnt Basin
- Cougar Basin
- Upper Middle Fork
- Mann Creek
- Little Weiser
- Middle Fork Brownlee
- Gaylord
- Sheep Creek
- Mill Creek
- Hitt-Keithly
- Middle Little Salmon River

Several of these projects were also monitored for 1 year follow-ups. All activities were successfully implemented and effective at restoring long-term soil productivity.

Current conditions of DD are inventoried during the planning process for the activity areas within a project. The inventoried current conditions determine whether DD must be maintained below 15 percent (for those activity areas where DD is currently below 15 percent) or whether DD must be improved toward the level of 15 percent (for activity areas where the current condition is greater than 15 percent).

The creation of new DD is generally eliminated through mitigation measures and project specific design features while existing DD is reduced through the loosening of soil on compacted areas or the replacement of displaced soil materials.

During 2004-2006, six timber sale cutting units were monitored to determine DD levels following the completion of activities. All six units were measured with less than 3 percent DD, well below the Forest Plan standard of 15 percent.

2.2.2.15 DISTRIBUTION OF AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

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/mile of occupied habitat, number of strongholds, and number of isolated populations as identified in the WARS database.

Work Completed and Findings: At this time as there is no process in place for monitoring the effects of projects on TEPC fish species; implementation of appropriate project design features, best management practices, and mitigations as described during consultation is assumed to have, at worst, maintained the distribution, abundance, and habitat quality of management indicator and TEPC species. No changes in the distribution of TEPC fish species has been observed since publication of the Forest Plan except that we have come to regard bull trout in the North Fork Payette River watershed as functionally extinct (Burns et al. 2005).

2.2.2.16 LANDSLIDE PREVENTION

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: The Forest Plan has specific requirements to identify landslide prone areas and limit management actions in the identified areas. The landslide prone areas are identified during NEPA analysis evaluations in accordance with Forest Plan direction and standard and guidelines. Land sliding events are usually triggered by severe weather events such as rain or snow and extremely wet periods of precipitation which saturate soils. The Forest has not experiences any landslide triggering events since the implementation of the current Forest Plan direction.

2.2.2.17 NOXIOUS WEED PREVENTION

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

Indicator: Acres of new noxious weed infestations.

Work Completed and Findings: Forest weed management crews collected tabular and spatial data on 949 invasive weed sites and uploaded information into the NRIS corporate database. These weed infestations totaled approximately 10,000 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.

2.2.2.18 NOXIOUS WEED CONTAINMENT

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 collected tabular and spatial data on 949 invasive weed sites and uploaded information into the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) corporate database. These weed infestations totaled approximately 10,000 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.

2.2.2.19 NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL AND ERADICATION

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 390 infestations of noxious weeds in 2006. 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.

2.2.2.20 FORAGE UTILIZATION LEVELS

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: Forest weed management crews treated approximately 390 infestations of noxious weeds in 2006. 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 PROJECT LEVEL MONITORING

During FY 2006, the Payette NF experienced extreme fire behavior, suppression, and recovery efforts, active and on-going litigation, and several Forest scale high priority NEPA analyses. Because of these factors and the reduced work fore, no Forest Plan monitoring occurred on the project level.

3. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT TIMING

The 2006 Monitoring and Evaluation report documents and discloses the activities from fiscal year 2004, 2005, and 2006 (October 2004 – September 2006). The Payette will continue to issue the Forest Plan Monitoring and Evaluation reports by summer 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. It means information displayed in the 2006 report will be added to the 2007 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. The Five-Year Monitoring Report that is scheduled to be issued in 2008 will evaluate those longer-term trends.

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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
BAER – Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation
BFES - Budget Formulation and Execution System
BLM - Bureau of Land Management
BO – Biological Opinion
CDC - Conservation Data Center
CWMA - Coordinated Weed Management Area
DD – Detrimental Disturbance
DN - Decision Notice
EA - Environmental Assessment
ECA - Equivalent Clearcut Area
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
FONSI - Finding of No Significant Impact
FRTA - Forest Roads and Trails Act
FSM/FSH – Forest Service Manual/Handbook
FY – Fiscal Year
GIS – Geographic Information System
ICBEMP - Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project
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
NAAQS - National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAIP - National Agriculture Imagery Program
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
PA - Programmatic Agreement
PNW - Pacific Northwest
RSAC - Remote Sensing Applications Center
SFSR - South Fork Salmon River
SHPO - State Historic Preservation Office
STA - Small Tract Act
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 Stated 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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