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2007 Monitoring Report

Payette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan



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2007 MONITORING REPORT

PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

SEPTEMBER 2007

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 THE FOREST AND THE FOREST PLAN

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

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

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

The Forest also encountered two vegetation altering events during 2007. 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 fourth full year of implementing the revised Forest Plan. It reports Forest monitoring activities and accomplishments for fiscal year 2007, which was from October 2006 through September 2007.



1.2 FOREST PLAN MONITORING AND EVALUATION

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

Chapter IV of the Forest Plan, "Implementation," describes the Payette's monitoring and evaluation strategy. It lists the activities, practices, and effects to monitor and the indicators, or measures, to track in Tables IV-1 and IV-2. While most of the elements require annual data gathering, they 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 fourth year of monitoring under the revised Forest Plan, this report focuses on the elements from Tables IV-1 and IV-2 that are to be reported annually and those that are reported every two (or four) 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 in January 2005, 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 (USDI Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and NOAA Fisheries).

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

1.4 REPORT ORGANIZATION

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

Section 2.2 shows the 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 2007. 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. 2007 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

2.1 ANNUAL MONITORING ELEMENTS FROM TABLE IV-1

2.1.1 EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE

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

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

2.1.1.1 Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate Species

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

ESA-listed and R4 Sensitive Fishes

Maps of known distributions of ESA-listed fishes, including management indicator species (MIS), and R4 sensitive fishes on the Forest are updated as new information is obtained, often during pre-project inventories, which typically means that they are updated at least annually. The Fisheries Program has not been coordinating with the Idaho Conservation Data center (ICDC) but does coordinate annually with Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), and did so in the spring of 2007.

Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel

Forest-Wide Population Monitoring

In 2007, population monitoring for northern Idaho ground squirrels (NIDGS) continued by both the Payette NF and the IDFG. Population monitoring includes extensive surveys by the Payette NF and IDFG to locate new sites and continue to document presence at existing sites. This work is often completed as part of project-scale analyses. Intensive monitoring is conducted by IDFG using mark-recapture techniques at 5 sites to provide information on population size, survival, sex ratios and compare population parameters among sites. The following information is summarized from the *Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel Population Monitoring Progress Report*, (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2007):

Surveys at 46 known sites detected 657 squirrels. This number was considerably lower than the 920 squirrels detected in 2006, but may be due in part to less focused efforts at some of the larger sites (i.e., Price Valley and Round Valley). Mark-recapture studies detected 275 individuals (adults and yearlings). Capture numbers were also lower at all sites compared with 2006. Across all sites, twice as many females were captured as males, although similar numbers of females and males (37%) were recaptured in 2007 compared with 2006. A new NIDGS site was discovered in the East Fork Lost Creek area near another site discovered in 2006. Ten NIDGS, including at least 3 pups, were seen at this site that is now called “Lower Lost”. NIDGS were detected at Butterfield Gulch following no detections since 2004.

Mark-recapture studies occur in April and May shortly after squirrels emerge from hibernation. These studies have been occurring since 2001 resulting in some notable findings. In 2004, the study began using PIT (passive integrated transponder) tags injected under the skin of the animal. A scanner is used to remotely detect the tagged animal, avoiding more time-consuming and stressful recapture technique such as live-trapping or visual observations for marks or ear tags.

Some notable information was disclosed in 2007. The oldest captured female to date is a 9+ year old female at Cold Springs West. The oldest captured male was 6+ years. Overall, mark-recapture data indicates that females appear to live longer than males. These data also indicate that up to 18% of the population may be “missed;” i.e., not detected in one or more years and then subsequently recaptured. On average, about 5% of the population may be missed.

Overall, survey efforts in 2007 resulted in an estimate of 1,040 squirrels. Although this was a 26% decrease from the 2006 estimate, NIDGS Coordinator, Diane Evans Mack, believes the population is stable. The species remains highly vulnerable since it occurs most frequently in small numbers; 29 sites support less than 20 adults and yearlings.

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.”

Metapopulation Plans

The NIDGS Recovery Plan requires site-specific metapopulation area management plans. In 2007, the Lost Valley Metapopulation Management Plan was completed by Forest Service and IDFG biologists and submitted to IDFG for final editing.

Project-Scale Inventories

From June 10 to August 15 approximately 36 person hours were spent surveying approximately 1,000 acres in Lost Creek, Pollock Mountain, and Fourth of July Creek areas. Sites were surveyed that had similar, soil, vegetative characteristics, aspect, elevations (4800 – 8,000 feet), and slopes consistent with extant and extinct NIDGS populations.

Approximately 300 acres were surveyed in Lost Creek, near the confluence of East Lost and Lost Creek. One new site was discovered (Lower Lost). Three NIDGS pups were observed in early August, follow up trips to the site revealed the same individuals, August 7 was the last observation of NIDGS at this site.

Surveys were completed on approximately 300 acres on the south end of the proposed 4th of July NIDGS project area. Several NIDGS were observed scattered and dispersed for approximately one mile south of

the original 4th of July site, distribution, and NIDGS numbers are greater than originally believed in the area. The Rocky Top population, approximately 1.5 miles north of the original 4th of July site was also surveyed, only two individuals were observed, compared with eight individuals in 2007.

Approximately 400 acres were surveyed in the Pollock Mountain area. No NIDGS were observed. The areas surveyed varied in elevation between 6,800 and 8,000 feet, with south, and southwest aspects. The habitat in the area could support NIDGS. Columbian ground squirrels were observed.

Bald Eagle

Nest Surveys

After 40 years of protection under the ESA, the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was officially removed from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife on August 8, 2007. The nesting population of bald eagles in Idaho increased in 2007 to 234 active territories. The Payette NF primarily occurs in Recovery Zone 15 -- recovery goals in this zone have been exceeded. The Payette NF, in cooperation with IDFG, monitored the bald eagle nest site in the Lost Valley area. The nest was occupied, but it is unknown if eggs were laid and no 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 is approximately 0.1 mile north of the Payette NF boundary on the Nez Perce NF. One young was fledged in 2007. Results were reported in the *Idaho Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring 2007 Annual Report* (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2008). (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.*

The Forest initiated a cooperative research project with the USDA Rocky Mountain Research Station in 2005 to model bull trout distributions in the Secesh River watershed. This project deployed a dense network of thermographs in the watershed in 2006 to establish a baseline stream temperature database, and in 2007 this was expanded to field-test the sampling/habitat modeling protocol. In 2006, we also produced a summary of stream temperatures across the Payette NF (Nelson and Burns 2006); stream temperature will be a principal coefficient in the bull trout occurrence model being developed with USDA Rocky Mountain Research Station.

The Payette NF continued to coordinate with the USFWS, IDFG, Boise NF, and Dr. Eric Yensen of College of Idaho (previously Albertson College) to share research, monitoring, and recovery efforts for the NIDGS. In 2007, a revised participating agreement was established to guide this cooperative effort for the next 5 years. The Payette NF wildlife biologist maintained the Forest's involvement on the NIDGS Technical Working Group. The Technical Working Group is responsible for researching and making recommendations on conservation and management actions leading to recovery of the species. Meetings were held in April and July 2007, interspersed by frequent conversations by phone and email to better coordinate activities.

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.*

In 2004, the Payette NF, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS, now NOAA Fisheries), 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 USDA Rocky Mountain Research Station,

addresses multi-scale analyses of risks and threats to species and their habitat and tracking of habitat environmental baselines. In 2007, the Payette NF continued to update and reassess baseline descriptions for listed wildlife and fish species.

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

ESA-listed and R4 Sensitive Fishes

This is routinely accomplished during project-specific analyses that identify and evaluate watershed conditions indicators (WCIs) appropriate to the project and during development of mitigations designed to sufficiently offset potentially negative project effects that WCIs are expected to either be maintained or moved toward “functioning appropriately” conditions. Project-level consultations reinforce this effort by providing the NMFS and the USFWS opportunities to help design these mitigation features.

ESA-listed Wildlife Species

This objective is one of the key considerations in project-level and other fine-scale analyses. For example, in 2007 the Payette NF wildlife biologists participated in a multi-year effort to update biological assessments of the effects of ongoing Forest actions on listed wildlife species. Numerous consultation meetings were held with ESA regulatory agencies and through these meeting mitigation measures were identified to reduce the impacts of ongoing activities on listed species.

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

To facilitate the recovery of the NIDGS, work on the following monitoring and habitat enhancement projects was conducted in 2007. The areas treated and treatment methods were consistent with the NIDGS Recovery Plan.

Lost Valley: 30 acres were broadcast burned that had been previously burned in 2003. The objective was to rejuvenate and enhance the grass and forb communities.

Price Valley and Slaughter Campground: The Youth Conservation Corp. (YCC): (Slaughter Campground, and Price Valley) live-trapped and translocated Columbian ground squirrels (COGS) to deeper moist soil types to reduce potential competition for forage between COGS and the resident NIDGS. Sixteen COGS were translocated from Slaughter Campground and twenty three COGS were translocated from the Price Valley Guard Station area.

A Biological Assessment (BA) was completed on the effects of noxious weed treatments on NIDGS. The result of this BA and consultation with the USFWS is that the Payette NF will be able to treat noxious weeds at occupied NIDGS sites.

An environmental analysis was initiated for the East Fork Lost Creek NIDGS Habitat Improvement project. This project will remove trees through harvest and burning NIDGS to restore habitat and create dispersal corridors between the Lost Valley Metapopulation area and occupied NIDGS sites in the East Fork of Lost Creek.

Monitoring of vegetation use by livestock near occupied NIDGS sites continued in 2007. Range specialists established and monitored sites at Cold Springs East, Cold Springs West, Cottonwood

Corrals, Fawn Creek, Hoo Hoo Gulch, Huckleberry, Mill Creek, Smith Mountain Lookout, Summit Gulch, and Tree Farm.

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.*

The Fisheries Program reviews the Fire Management Plan 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 2007.

The Payette NF Wildlife Program updates maps for the Fire Management Plan to indicate areas closed to ground disturbing fire management actions (such as fire camps and helicopter landings) in order to protect listed species such as the NIDGS.

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 or minimization, adverse effects to TEPC species.*

Four gates were installed in the Lost Valley area to discourage unauthorized vehicle and ATV use in closed areas. The Huckleberry site was patrolled during the Bear Tornado logging salvage project to enforce reduced speed limit compliance on FS road 50105 that borders occupied NIDGS habitat.

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.*

The Payette NF is a partner 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 fiscal year 2007, the Forest made this request on 36 occasions and received concurrence to burn on all occasions. None of these 36 prescribed burning activities exceeded National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

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

Emissions data for prescribed fires is being collected through the Airshed Management System (AMS). The AMS is a web based tool that all Montana/Idaho Airshed Group members use to request burn day recommendations and report actual acres accomplished. This data is archived and available to IDEQ. There is no emission data collection system for wildland fire use. The IDEQ has not developed a Regional Haze State Implementation Plan, but anticipated submitting a plan to EPA in 2008. This plan

should outline what data requirements, if any, are needed to report emissions from wildland fire use. Implementation it expected to take place in 2013.

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

During fiscal year 2007, the Forest used mechanical treatments and prescribed burning as mentioned above (ASOB01; Accomplishment), and WFU to help manage vegetation to reduce potential smoke from uncharacteristic wildfire. The total area treated by these means was 88,628 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.*

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

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

2.1.1.3 Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic Resources

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

The Forest continues to identify opportunities to restore degraded soil conditions during timber and fuels management project proposals and NEPA analysis. Opportunities consist of the identification of areas of Total Soil Resource Commitment and Detrimental Disturbance where improvements can be made to improve long-term soil productivity to meet Forest Plan standards and guidelines. Additionally, the further creation 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 fiscal year 2007 that identified opportunities include the Bear Tornado Recovery Project, the Idaho Power Projects, the Upper West Fork Weiser Stand Improvement Project, and the Yellow Pine and Eiguren Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project.

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

Environmental baselines were substantially updated during preparation of watershed biological assessments in 2006 and presented to NMFS and USFWS in 2007 prior to initiation of formal

consultation. However, there is presently no process in place to support regular updates of the baseline as are reflected in the watershed BAs. Implementation of the “Framework” process will support this monitoring need:

The “Framework” will include a process and frequency for updating information that ensures broad-scale goals and objectives for species conservation and changes in environmental baselines within the SWIE are kept sufficiently current to inform project development and consultation at the site (project) scale (National Marine Fisheries Service 2003).

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.*

The Payette NF staff held a coordination meeting with the Nez Perce Tribe in the spring of 2007. They also held a coordination meeting with Idaho Fish and Game in the spring of 2007.

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.*

ESA-listed and R4 Sensitive Fishes

In 2007, Wesley Creek and Crooked River culverts in the Brownlee Reservoir Section 7 watershed and Star Creek in the Boulder Creek watershed were upgraded to restore connectivity which likely reconnected gene flow for bull trout and possibly for steelhead. Both were considered barriers to bull trout migration.

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.*

MIS and R4 Sensitive Fishes

Maps of known distributions of MIS and R4 sensitive fishes on the Forest are updated from pre-project inventories (which typically means that they are updated at least annually). The Fisheries Program has not been coordinating with the ICDC but does coordinate at least annually with IDFG, and did so in the spring of 2007.

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).*

During the project analysis for the Payette NF Travel Management Plan important habitat linkage areas were identified for forest carnivores such as the Canada lynx and wolverine. The project analysis recommended actions to maintain and restore important habitat linkages. Project analysis and habitat restoration work above under Objective TEOB15 also met this objective.

The Forest Wildlife Biologist participated in an effort with the Idaho Department of Transportation and IDFG to identify areas where wildlife corridor conflict with human corridors (e.g., roads). This statewide project resulted in the identification of wildlife-highway linkage areas and in a web-based wildlife-

highway mortality database. This information will be integral to future planning efforts to maintain important wildlife habitat linkages on the Payette NF.

Objective WIOB02: During site/project-scale analyses, identify non-vegetated wintering and denning wildlife habitats (caves, talus slopes, etc.) when it is determined that the proposed activity may measurably reduce the quality of those habitats.

These objectives were met during the project analysis for the Payette NF Travel Management Plan for the Winter (ROD expect summer 2009). A wolverine denning habitat model was developed with the help of wolverine researchers. This model was used to identify areas where winter recreation and denning habitat overlap. Based on the preliminary analysis, the Payette NF plans to further investigate the potential impacts of winter recreation on wolverine denning habitat.

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.

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 (SWIE). 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 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 (IDFG 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 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A Notice of Intent (NOI) to supplement the analysis of the Final EIS was published in the Federal Register on September 14, 2007.

Fine-scale Restoration Actions

In 2007, 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. Projects that analyzed and specifically designed to restore wildlife habitats included the East Fork Lost Creek NIDGS Habitat Improvement project. Projects to restore wildlife habitat that were implemented in 2007 included the Rapid River prescribed burn, Lost Valley prescribed burn, and road decommissioning in the Burgdorf Roads area.

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.*

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 2007 on the Payette NF focused on wolf control actions due to wolf depredation activities. In addition, WS took action to remove badgers depredating on NIDGS in Price Valley and Lost Valley, specifically Slaughter Campground area.

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

The Payette NF hosted an International Migratory Bird Day event with the IDFG and Idaho State Parks at Ponderosa State Park. In addition, the Forest Wildlife Biologist presented a field day program to McCall fifth grade elementary students on migratory birds.

Objectives WIOB08: *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.*

Objectives WIOB10: *Update appropriate NRIS database modules for sensitive species' occurrence and habitat on a biennial basis to incorporate the latest field data.*

Numerous wildlife population and habitat surveys were conducted on the Forest. Surveys focused on the following species: pileated woodpeckers, white-headed woodpeckers, northern goshawks, flammulated owls, great gray owls, bald eagle nest sites, northern Idaho ground squirrels, and forest carnivores (i.e., fisher and wolverine). Bald eagle monitoring and northern Idaho ground squirrel surveys are described above under objective TEOB01. The results of monitoring for the MIS, pileated woodpecker and white-headed woodpecker, are 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 ICDC and entered into the Payette NF wildlife occurrence FAUNA database.

Forest Carnivores

Snow track surveys and fisher hair snare surveys were conducted by IDFG biologists to monitor forest carnivores (i.e., fisher, wolverine, wolf, lynx, and marten). Survey methods for the hair snares followed the U.S. Rocky Mountain Fisher Survey Protocol developed by Schwartz et al. (2006). Hair samples were submitted to the Forest Service USDA Rocky Mountain Research Station for genetic testing. Four hair samples collected on the Forest were identified as fisher. All fisher hair samples were obtained in late February to late March in areas where no fisher had previously been known to occur. These results substantially increase the known range of the fisher on the Forest.

Flammulated Owls and Great Gray Owls

In 2007, the Forest cooperated with the IDFG under a "Challenge Cost Share" agreement to survey for flammulated owls and great gray owls. The full report, *Occurrence of the Flammulated Owl (Otus*

flammeolus) and Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) – Final Report of the 2007 Surveys (USDA Forest Service 2007), is available from the Payette NF. The following is excerpted from the executive summary:

“In 2007, nocturnal playback surveys were conducted for great gray owls from mid February through March and for flammulated owls from mid May until early July on the Payette National Forest. We surveyed 240 stations for great gray owls (GGOW) and 269 stations for flammulated owls (FLOW). Our objectives were to build on surveys conducted in previous years by revisiting transects to assess changes, adding new transects to expand effort, and documenting GGOW and FLOW occurrence and distribution Forest-wide.

Two GGOW were detected during the 6-week survey period, 1 at Bear Basin and 1 at Squaw Meadows. These 2 detections were fewer than expected but similar to 2005 when only 1 owl was heard, on the Chamberlain Basin transect. Documenting GGOW presence seems to be more difficult than other species and dependent on timing relative to nesting, snow depth, and type and quality of broadcast calls. Lack of response does not indicate absence of this species.

We detected 95 FLOW (29 on the east side, 66 on the west side) along surveys or incidentally off transects. Compared with 2005, we detected more owls on more transects. Detections increased in the Salmon River Mountains with the addition of 2 new transects and decreased in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. Compared to previous surveys in 1991 and 2005, detections increased in the Bear Creek and Cuddy Mountain regions and were lower in the West Mountains. Highest concentrations (number of owls per transect) were at Crooked River on the Council Ranger District, Dukes Creek on the Weiser Ranger District, and Moorehead Flat on the New Meadows District. We surveyed 8 transects twice and none had the same number of FLOW detections during subsequent visits. As in 2005, most FLOW were detected in ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, or mixed pine/Douglas-fir forest types in areas with a large tree component.

Management recommendations for GGOW include a more complex surveying method, such as multiple visits using different calls for different times of the breeding season, daytime searches for nests and young, more sophisticated calling equipment to amplify the low frequency hoot, and imitation of calls rather than broadcasting a recording. Artificial nesting platforms provide nesting substrate where natural sites are limited and provide monitoring opportunities to test survey methods.

For FLOW, this study reiterated the importance of mature and older-aged mixed conifer, ponderosa pine, and Douglas-fir forests. Sites with a history of flammulated owl occupancy should be retained in, or managed for, older forest characteristics because of continued use through time by successive generations of owls. Retention of large snags is critical for providing nest cavities. Selective cuts with residual large-diameter ponderosa pine or Douglas-fir trees in moderate to high density may provide suitable habitat, especially when adjacent to older uncut forest, but this has not been adequately tested. In many cases, the Forest’s objectives for restoring dry pine and Douglas-fir forests to historical conditions also promote characteristics of suitable flammulated owl habitat. The 2007 wildfires present an opportunity to conduct post-fire surveys to examine changes in habitat and how FLOW respond to burns of varying intensities.”

Studies on flammulated owl and great gray owl populations and habitat are a priority on the Payette NF and have been conducted biannually over the past four years. The results of these studies are being summarized in a Forest report to be published in 2009.

Northern Goshawks

Goshawk nest surveys have been conducted yearly on the west-side of the Payette NF since 2000. Each year, a sub-sample of the 97 known nest sites is surveyed. In 2007, the nest tree or stand in 15 of the 97 known sites was down or considered no longer suitable for nesting. Of the 27 sites surveyed, 13 were active and 14 were inactive. Studies on goshawk populations and habitat are a priority on the Payette NF and have been ongoing for a number of years. The results of these studies are being summarized and published in Forest report in 2009.

2.1.1.5 Vegetation

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

In 2007, there were 3 decisions signed relating to vegetation management, one decision memo and two Decision Notice/FONSI's. Two decisions allow for planting of seral species to maintain this vegetative component on the landscape.

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

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.*

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

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

The Payette NF began research and discussion of integrating FIA inventory plots and existing vegetation mapping.

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

The Payette NF 5-year action plan outlines the Forests vegetation management program. This action plan is updated periodically and is responsive to a variety of things including changed forested conditions. The three vegetation decisions signed this year would work towards meeting the Forest Plan desired conditions and either restore or maintain vegetation desired conditions. The Bear Tornado Project responded to a changed forest and fuels condition resulting from a tornado event in June 2006. The Yellow Pine and Eiguren Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project would reduce potential fire behavior by decreasing fuels around the community of Yellow Pine, which was designated as a community of high risk to wildfire. The Upper West Fork Weiser Timber Stand Improvement Project would reduce stocking levels and improve the growth of residual trees.

2.1.1.6 Botanical Resources

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

Locations of occupied and suitable plant habitats and their populations were mapped either as new locations or as expanded populations during fiscal year 2007. Site and species information was gathered and sent to ICDC in October of 2007.

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

Continue weed control in and around sensitive plant habitat in cooperation with the Forest weed management program. Completed cost-share agreement with Red Butte Botanical Gardens. A document on how *Saxifrage bryophora* var. *tobiasiae* (Tobias saxifrage) responded to greenhouse cultivation was submitted. Transplanted bulbils of *Saxifrage bryophora* var. *tobiasiae* in Pearl Creek were monitored.

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

No Special Interest sites recommended in 2007.

Objective BTOB04: *Maintain annually a list of Forest Watch plants that identify species of concern.*

Following the 2007 Rare Plant Conference with Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the moss *Helodium blandowii* was listed as a State Priority 2. (See Table 1 for a list of species.)

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	
<i>Allium madidum</i>	swamp onion	G3	S3	S	S	re
<i>Allium tolmiei</i> var. <i>persimile</i>	Tolmie's onion	G4/T3	S3	S	S	le
<i>Allium validum</i>	Tall Swamp Onion	G4	S3	N	W	w
<i>Allotropa virgata</i>	candystick	G4	S3	S	W	d
<i>Arabis sparsiflora</i> var. <i>atrorubens</i>	Sicklepad Rockcress	G5T3	-	-	W	w
<i>Astragalus paysonii</i>	Payson's milkvetch	G3	S3	S	S	re
<i>Astragalus vexilliflexus</i> var. <i>vexilliflexus</i>	bent flowered milkvetch	G4/T? ⁵	S1	N	S	d
<i>Botrychium lanceolatum</i>	Lance-leaved moonwort	G5T4	S3	N	W	cb
<i>Botrychium lineare</i>	Slender moonwort	C-G1	SH	N	W	sd
<i>Botrychium simplex</i>	Least moonwort	G5	S2	N	S	cb
<i>Buxbaumia viridis</i>	green bug moss	G4	S2	N	S	w
<i>Calamagrostis tweedyi</i>	Cascade reedgrass	G3	S2	S	S	re

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Species Name	Common Name	Global ¹	State ²	Forest Service Status ³		Global Distrib. ⁴
				Regional Sensitive Current	PNF Plan Proposed	
<i>Camassia cusickii</i>	Cusick camas	G4	S2	S	S	re
<i>Carex aboriginum</i>	Indian Valley Sedge	G1	S1	N	W	le
<i>Carex buxbaumii</i>	Buxbaum's sedge	G5	S3	N	W	w
<i>Ceanothus prostratus</i> ssp. <i>prostratus</i>	Mahala-mat ceanothus	G5/?	S1	N	S	d
<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i> spp. <i>Nanus</i>	dwarf grey rabbitbrush	G5/T4	S3	N	W	re
<i>Crepis bakeri</i> ssp. <i>idahoensis</i> .	Idaho hawksbeard	G4/T2	S2	N	S	le
<i>Douglasia idahoensis</i>	Idaho Douglasia	G2	S2	S	W	le
<i>Draba incerta</i>	Yellowstone draba	G5	S2	N	S	re
<i>Eatonella nivea</i>	White eatonella	G4	S3	N	W	d
<i>Epilobium palustre</i>	Swamp Willow Weed	G5	S3	N	W	w
<i>Epipactis gigantea</i>	Giant helleborine orchid	G3	S3	N	S*	sd
<i>Hackelia davisii</i>	Davis' stickseed	G3	S3	N	S	le
<i>Halimolobos perplexa</i> var. <i>perplexa</i>	Puzzling halimolobos	G4/T3	S3	S	S	le
<i>Haplopappus radiatus</i>	Snake River golden weed	G3	S3	S	S	re
<i>Helodium blandowii</i>	Blandow's helodium	G5	S2	N	S	cb
<i>Hierochloe odorata</i>	Sweetgrass	G4/G5	N	N	W	w
<i>Howellia aquatilis</i>	Water howellia	T-G2	S1	N	W	sd
<i>Leptodactylon pungens</i> ssp. <i>hazeliae</i>	Hazel's prickly phlox	G5/T2	S2	S	S	le
<i>Lewisia kelloggii</i>	Kellogg's bitterroot	G4	S2	N	S	re
<i>Lobaria scrobiculata</i>	Pored lungwort	G3/G4	S1	N	S	cb
<i>Mimulus clivicola</i>	Bank Monkeyflower	G4	S3	S	W	re
<i>Mirabilis macfarlanei</i>	MacFarlane's four-o'clock	T-G2	S2	N	W	Le
<i>Peraphyllum ramosissimum</i>	Squaw apple	G4	S2	N	S	Sd
<i>Pilophorus acicularis</i>	Nail lichen	G4	S2	N	S	Sd
<i>Polystichum kruckebergii</i>	Kruckeberg's Sword-fern	G4	S2	N	S	re
<i>Ribes wolfii</i>	Wolf's current	G4	S2	N	S	D
<i>Rubus bartonianus</i>	Bartonberry	G2	S2	S	S	Le
<i>Salix glauca</i>	gray willow	G5	S2	N	S	D
<i>Sanicula graveolens</i>	Sierra sanicle	G4	S1	N	S	W
<i>Saxifraga bryophora</i> var. <i>tobiasiae</i>	Tobias' saxifrage	G5T2	S2	S	S	Le
<i>Schistostega pennata</i>	Luminous moss	G4	S1	N	W	cb
<i>Sedum borschii</i>	Borch's stonecrop	G4 ?	S2	N	S	Sd
<i>Silene spaldingii</i>	Spalding's silene	T-G2	S1	N	W	re
<i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	Ute Ladies'-tresses	T-G2	S1	N	W	re
<i>Triantha occidentalis</i> ssp. <i>brevistyla</i>	Short-style tofieldia	G5/T4	S1	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, treaties, and agreement with the U.S. Government.*

Heritage Program and botany program worked 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.*

Provided training on rare plants on the Payette to employees. Taught native plant identification to McCall-Donnelly High School science class.

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

Botanical surveys or monitoring occurred on over 30 sites in 2007. 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, phenology, distribution, and susceptibility to impacts. Coordinate efforts and information with the Idaho Conservation Data Center, universities, Forest Service Research Stations, etc.*

Locations of occupied and suitable plant habitats and their populations were mapped either as new locations or as expanded populations during fiscal year 2007. Site and species information was gathered and sent to ICDC.

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.*

Worked with McCall-Donnelly High School identifying noxious weeds in and around the school area.

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.*

Developed a cost-share agreement with Mancuso Botanical Services 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.*

Worked with USDA FS Pacific Northwest Research Station in Corvallis, collecting *Stipa comata* 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.*

Contracted with Buffalo Berry Farm, 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.*

Tabular and spatial data was collected on 216 invasive weed sites and uploaded information into the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) corporate database in 2007.

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

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

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

All four 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.*

In addition to cooperative work with the CWMAs, the Payette NF 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.*

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

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

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

Objective 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.

In fiscal year 2007, approximately 40 acres of noxious weed infestations were treated within the Cuddy Bear, Trout, and South Fork Complex wildfire areas. Additional areas within these burns were inventoried for noxious weeds with none found.

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

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

2.1.1.8 Fire Management

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

During fiscal year 2007, the Payette treated 5,727 acres of hazardous fuels using prescribed burning and mechanical treatments. It also treated 86,293 acres using naturally occurring fire (wildland fire use for resource benefit or WFU). Of the 92,020 acres total treated, the treatment mix was 5 percent Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and 95 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 that the Payette completed in the Non-WUI portion of the Forest in 2007 did occur in these areas and has helped to move them toward lower condition class ratings.

Table 2. Hazardous Fuels Treated, Fiscal Year 2007.

FY 2007	WUI Treatments	WUI Acres	Non-WUI Treatments	Non-WUI Acres	Total Treatments	Total Acres
Mechanical	18	4,298	3	745	21	5,043
Prescribed Fire	2	614	1	70	4	684
Subtotal	20	4,912	4	815	25	5,727
Wildland Fire Use - WFU*	0	0	9	86,293	9	86,293
Total	20	4,912	13	87,108	34	92,020

* 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.*

Table 3 shows the acres harvested, reforested, and thinned. Salvage harvest occurred on approximately 890 acres within the Bear Tornado Project. The reforestation acres shown in the table include 122 acres of planting, 364 acres of site preparation for planting, and 726 acres of natural regeneration without site preparation. Timber stand improvement acres include 236 acres of release and weeding and 2,108 acres of pre-commercial thinning. We are rebuilding our vegetation management program and will be doing this incrementally over the next several years.

Table 3. Timber Area Treated, Fiscal Year 2007.

	Total Timber Harvested (Acres)	Total Salvage (Acres)	Total Other than Salvage (Acres)	Total Reforested (Acres)	Total Timber Stand Improvement (Acres)
Completed	1,019	890	129	1,212	2,334

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

In fiscal year 2007, the Payette NF offered approximately 35.9 million (MMBF) of timber and sold 30.4 MMBF. The volume offered was a 113% of the yearly ASQ and the actual amount of volume sold was 94% of the yearly ASQ estimated for Objective TROB02.

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

The Payette sold approximately 1.6 million board feet (MMBF) of wood products (fuelwood, posts and poles, houselogs, etc.). When combined with the 30.4 MMBF of timber sold from TROB02, the Payette NF contributed a total of 32 MMBF to the TSPQ. The TPSQ accomplished for fiscal year 2007 is 79% of the yearly TPSQ estimated for Objective TROB03.

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.*

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.*

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

2.1.1.11 Lands and Special Uses

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

Right-of-Way Acquisition

In fiscal year 2007, the Forest acquired 2 temporary road rights-of-way and 14 permanent roads totaling 2.33 miles through land purchase at Thunder Mountain.

Conveyance

The Pascoe Small Tracts Act Conveyance was completed in 2007. The United States conveyed 1,007 acres to private landowners in the Paddy Flat area under the Small Tracts Act to dispose of a Tract B road exemption.

The conveyance of 4 administrative sites was completed under the Forest Service Facilities Realignment and Enhancement Act of 2005. The sales were conducted via an online auction through Government Service Administration (GSA). Two sites are located on the Council Ranger District within the city limits of Council and two of the sites are located on the New Meadows Ranger District within the city limits of New Meadows. The funds collected from these sales can be used for maintenance of Forest Service facilities or building new facilities.

Purchase

Phase 3 of the Thunder Mountain Acquisition was completed in April 2007. The land in this acquisition included part of Mineral Survey Numbers 1988, approximately 88.28 acres. This acquisition was completed with Land and Water Conservation Funds. There is one more phase 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.*

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

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

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

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

In fiscal year 2007, the Payette NF acquired 2 temporary road easements from landowners in Bear, Idaho to access salvage timber from the Bear Tornado. The Payette NF also acquired 14 permanent roads through the Thunder Mountain land acquisition. The Payette NF granted one Non-Cost Share Easement (Rd. No. 58017 to the State of Idaho), and 4 temporary permits to landowners hauling commercial salvage timber on Forest Roads. In addition, the Forest terminated an unneeded Cost Share Easement and private road easement for the Edge Road No. 50194 in the Circle C Subdivision.

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

With the accomplishments listed in the previous objective, 18 backlogged cases were eliminated from the Forest's Right-of-Way Plan.

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

In fiscal year 2007, the Southwest Idaho Boundary and Title Management Zone maintained 27.5 miles of previously marked boundary line.

Objective LSOB07: *Maintain land status records.*

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

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

In fiscal year 2007, one encroachment case identified through boundary management projects was successfully resolved through voluntary removal.

2.1.1.12 Facilities and Roads

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

Fine scale analysis identifying opportunities to reduce road-related degrading effects was addressed by the Payette NF in two project level environmental analysis documents in fiscal year 2007.

Krassel District completed the Yellow Pine and Eiguren Hazardous Fuels Reduction Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact (USDA Forest Service May 2007), which covered 11.0 square miles and identified 2.8 miles of road reconstruction and maintenance and 4.9 miles of unauthorized road decommissioning.

Council District completed the Cuprum Fuels Reduction Project Environmental Assessment (USDA Forest Service May 2007), which covered 14.0 square miles and identified 2.9 miles of road construction, 2.3 miles of temporary road construction, 4.0 miles of road reconstruction, and 8.8 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.*

In fiscal year 2007, the Payette NF:

- granted one Non-Cost Share Road Easement to the State of Idaho (Rd. No. 58017);
- received a lump sum payment from Western Pacific Timber for accumulated deferred road maintenance charges for Cost Share Roads prior to transfer to a new landowner;
- received a lump sum payment from a new landowner of former Boise Cascade/OfficeMax property for deferred road maintenance charges.
- terminated 1 road easement formerly shared with Boise Cascade/OfficeMax and now no longer needed by the United States;
- issued 4 Road Use Permits for commercial use of National Forest System (NFS) roads;
- executed a new Forest Road (maintenance) Agreement with Valley County.
- conducted annual cost share road maintenance meetings with its cooperator, the State of Idaho, and with Potlatch Corporation, the holder of cost share easements owned by former cooperator Boise Cascade Corporation. The purpose of the meetings was to make efficient use of resources and funds to manage our shared road network and to account for each party's traffic and non-traffic generated use and maintenance obligations. Final road maintenance costs for each party were reconciled at the end of 2007 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.*

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. Five road condition surveys were completed in fiscal year 2007. These roads were selected by the Forest Service's Washington Office using a random sample method.

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

The Payette NF classified road system includes 58 bridges and 3 major culverts (span > 20 ft.), most on a 2-year inspection cycle. Fourteen bridges were inspected in FY 2007 to determine if they support design uses and legal highway limits. Road miles and bridges surveyed are shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Roads and Bridges Surveyed, Fiscal Year 2007.

Type of Asset	Total Assets	Surveyed FY07	% Surveyed FY07
Operational ML 3,4,5 Roads (miles)	571	14.4	4.6
Operational ML 2 Roads (miles)	1567	10.2	1.6
Operational ML 1 Roads (miles)	820	0.4	0.2
Road Bridges and Major Culverts	61	14	23.0

Source: INFRA Report

In fiscal year 2007, the Payette NF road and watershed crews maintained 324.7 miles of system road, decommissioned 8.0 miles of system road, and obliterated 7.9 miles of unauthorized road. Table 5 lists those road miles maintained, as reported in the 2007 Payette NF Annual Roads Accomplishment Report (ARAR). Identified resource and safety hazards were corrected during this maintenance.

Table 5. Roads Receiving Force Account Maintenance, Fiscal Year 2007.

Operational Maintenance Level	Total System Miles (End of FY)	Roads Receiving Maintenance (Miles)	Remarks
1	820.4	8.2	Miles reported are for road closures
2	1566.9	71.9	
3	531.0	199.0	
4	36.2	41.6	
5	4.0	4.0	
Total Miles	2,958.5	324.7	
Decommissioned (System)		8.0	
Obliterated (Unauthorized)		7.9	

Source: FY 2007 Payette NF ARAR

In addition to the road miles maintained by the Payette NF, 1.6 miles of road were constructed, 28.6 miles of road were reconstructed, and 5.4 miles of road were maintained during fiscal 2007 by Payette NF timber sale purchasers. These miles are from timber sales awarded in prior fiscal years. Also, 23.9 miles of Forest road were maintained by Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and 15.0 miles by Western Pacific Timber during their 2007 timber sale program, for a total of 38.9 miles maintained by cost share cooperators.

Table 6 lists those system road miles constructed and maintained during timber sales as reported in the fiscal year 2007 Payette NF ARAR. Identified resource and safety hazards were corrected during the maintenance.

Table 6. Road Miles Maintained by Purchasers and Cooperators, Fiscal Year 2007.

Maintained By	Operational Maintenance Level	Construction	Reconstruction	Maintenance
PNF Timber Sale Purchaser	1,2	1.6	28.6	0
PNF Timber Sale Purchaser	3	0	0	5.4
Idaho Department of Lands	2,3	0	0	23.9
Western Pacific Timber	2,3	0	0	15.0
Total Miles		2.1	30.9	46.8

Source: FY 2007 Payette NF ARAR.

Five timber sales with specified road work were awarded in fiscal year 2007. The 44.1 miles of road maintenance and reconstruction from these five 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 7. Road Miles to be Maintained by Purchasers for 2007 Awarded Sales.

Operational Maintenance Level	Construction	Reconstruction	Maintenance
1	0	6.0	0
2	0	0	31.5
3	0	0	6.6
Total Miles	0	6.0	38.1

Source: FY 2007 FS Engineering Road Packages.

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

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

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

The Payette NF completed a Facility Master Plan in 2004. The Facility Master Plan evaluated existing administrative facilities and identified unneeded facilities. Unneeded facilities identified will be evaluated for disposal or decommissioning. Facility Master Plan Amendment #1 was added in July 2005 and is still in effect. During fiscal year 2007, 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.*

An open bottom box culvert was installed on Star Creek on the New Meadows District to restore fish passage and accommodate 100-year flow.

2.1.1.13 Recreation Resources

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

In 2007, the Regional Office completed the preliminary design for the new campground. Fires in July spread through the campground destroying all the trees in the newly designed upper campground loop. The Forest Recreation Program Manager and McCall District Ranger will reassess new campground plans.

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

The New Meadows Ranger District completed a plan for the dispersed recreation sites along Smokey Boulder Road, and applied for and received a Resource Advisory committee (RAC) grant to fund new CXT installation, barrier rocks, and hardened sites. It also funds closing some sites with resource damage. Project is scheduled for accomplishment in 2008.

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.*

The district recreation staff posted proposed fee increase signs at all fee campgrounds on the forest. Proposed fee hikes were also scoped in local newspapers to solicit public comment.

The Forest also continued to work on travel planning across the Forest, informing the public about alternatives via publications, web page information, and newspaper articles.

The Forest also added one Developed sites to the National Reservation System, Hazard Campground. This improved visitor satisfaction in being able to reserve a campsite ahead of time at these popular destination campgrounds.

In 2007, Evergreen Campground construction was completed, and the campground was open for business by September of 2007, newspaper articles published the status of the campground as once again – open for business.

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

In 2007, use figures were tracked in all Payette NF developed fee campgrounds to gage our occupancy rates and season of use. 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.*

The Payette NF received the following grants:

- Evergreen Campground Grant from Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR),
- Bear Basin Trail Head grant from RAC and IDPR,

- Bear Basin Mountain Bike Trail Grants

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

Accessibility improvements were made at the following campgrounds in 2007:

- Brownlee Campground: New accessible CXT, New accessible fire rings and tables.
- Ponderosa Campground: New accessible concrete path to restroom, two sites had concrete accessible paths paved around the tables, fire rings and access to each site was paved from the parking pad.
- Burgdorf and Jeanette Campgrounds: New accessible CXTs. Accessible paths to CXTs to be funded in 2008.

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.*

The Forest continued with forest-wide travel planning by releasing the Final EIS in 2007. The remainder of the year was spent responding to comments on the Final EIS.

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.*

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. In 2007, the annual operating plan was reviewed and updated to allow for another year of trail grooming. In 2007, the new Forest Service Trailhead facility at the Bear Basin Nordic trails was built using IDPR grant dollars, allocated dollars, and RAC funds.

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

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

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

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.*

The McCall Ranger District manages the Payette Avalanche Center. In 2007, the Payette Avalanche Center was funded to conduct both educational awareness classes and three forecasts per week on avalanche conditions. Forecasts were posted on the Payette NF avalanche web page. Educational

awareness classes were accomplished by both Payette Avalanche Center – Forest Service employees and Friends of the Avalanche Center partners.

2.1.1.14 Heritage Program

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

- a) The kinds of sites already known and their relative abundance on the Forest;***
- b) Major prehistoric uses;***
- c) Major ethnographic uses;***
- d) Major historic themes; and***

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

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

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

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

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

The Payette NF Heritage Program's main focus is compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 and 110 obligations.

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

The Payette NF Heritage Program maintains an ongoing cultural resource inventory to locate and identify historic properties on the National Forest. Since 1988, the Heritage Program has added 970 new historic properties the inventory list. The Heritage Program identifies about 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.*

The Payette NF 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.*

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.

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.*

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 NF Unit of the Frank Church-River of No Return 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.*

One building stabilization project, that has been ongoing for several years, is 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.*

Prehistoric artifacts and historic period records have been curated and continued to be maintained to standard.

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

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.*

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

Objective HOPB13: *Increase public awareness, involvement, and appreciation of outstanding heritage accomplishments through the expansion of stewardship programs.*

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. These are located at the Payette NF Supervisor and Ranger District Offices.

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

Through the NEPA process, the public is informed about project planning and are invited to provide comment. Idaho State Historic Preservation Office provides comment and all federal actions taking place annually. Tribes are given the opportunity to comment through technical and formal consultations.

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

The Heritage Program staffs supervise volunteers in Heritage Management Projects.

Objective HOPB16: *Expand partnerships with individuals, local communities, and academic and private sector institutions to protect cultural resources and involve and educate the public.*

The Heritage Program has three participating agreements with the public involving them with heritage projects taking place on the Payette NF.

2.1.1.15 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.*

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

Each Tribe has their own appropriate communication protocol. The Heritage Program maintains a list of Tribal contacts. This list is updated and circulated to personnel on the Payette NF who have responsibility to communicate with their resources piers and for line officers communicating with Tribal leaders.

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 began visiting the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee and staff more 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 2007, 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.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley do consultation using the Wings and Roots Campfire Talks medium. Heritage Program staff began attending Wings and Roots consultation meetings in 1997. The Payette NF has agreed to do consultation using the Wings and 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.*

The Payette NF and the Nez Perce Tribe have a memorandum of agreement (MOA) pertaining to the fisheries program. There is another memorandum of understanding (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.

2.1.1.16 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 (FCRONR) Wilderness 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 FCRONR Wilderness monitoring plan and is not duplicated in this monitoring report.

In 2007, 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, trash clean-up, dispersed campsite monitoring, and airstrip monitoring was accomplished. The FCRONR Wilderness has a lead working group and Board of Directors that met four times during 2007 to review plan accomplishments and challenges to work on for the following year.

2.1.1.17 Wild and Scenic rivers

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

South Fork of the Salmon River was found suitable for Wild and Scenic designation in 2003 and all projects proposed along the river segments on the PNF go through a screening to make sure they do not negatively affect the rivers Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs). Idaho Department of Fish and Game has an old antenna located along the South Fork of the Salmon River, approximately 1 mile below the mouth of the confluence with the Secesh (Hamilton Creek) that warrants removal as it is no longer in use. This antenna does not meet the visual standards the Forest is trying to maintain along the scenic corridor. South Fork of the Salmon River float boaters are required to obtain a permit to float the river and in 2007 there were 165 permitted floaters in 25 groups. There is no commercial authorized use of the South Fork of the Salmon River 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. The Nez Perce tribe installed a pit tag recording/reading station for fish along the South Fork of the Salmon River near the Krassel Guard Station.

2.1.1.18 Research Natural Areas

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

Fiscal year 2007, the Payette NF continued discussion took place with the Intermountain Regional Office, Rocky Mountain Research Station, and the Washington Office (through the RO) regarding processes and procedures for completing management plans. The Payette NF 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 Research Natural Areas (RNAs) continued for a better understanding among Forest and other interested personnel on RNA management needs. This included visits to Circle End Creek, Phoebe Meadows, Cuddy Mountain, and Council Mountain.

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

Fiscal year 2007, Contract work discussion with IDFG included proceeding in the formal establishment of Patrick Butte RNA.

2.1.1.19 Social and Economic

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

Payette NF employees worked with many individuals and groups in an effort to enhanced 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 NF. The group, comprised of Forest Service employees, local business, Idaho Parks and Recreation Department, has members that represent both motorized and non-motorized winter recreation. This group has worked together to help resolve issues between winter recreation user groups.

During fiscal year 2007, the Payette NF hosted two YCC. Crews helped to accomplish project across the National Forest while learning about nature and natural resource management. Additional, the Payette NF hosted volunteers to host Forest Service campground and clear trails through the Adopt-a-Trail program. Payette NF employees visited local schools to share information to students on forest management, wildlife and fish biology, range ecology and management, and other conservation messages. The Smoky Bear program was active in fiscal year 2007. The Payette NF worked along with IDPR to apply for grants to improvement recreation opportunities on the Payette NF.

Public involvement is essential part of the environmental analysis process. The scale of public involvement is conducted relative to the context of the project. Public involvement can include only a legal notice in the news paper of record for very minor projects to mailings and public meetings for the much larger scale projects. Some level of this public involvement, which provides the public and opportunity to participate, for all our projects. Twenty NEPA decisions were made on the Payette National Forest in fiscal year 2007. Public involvement was conducted on all of these projects.

2.1.2 EVALUATION OF COSTS

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

As described in Chapter IV of the Forest Plan, carrying out the intent of the Forest Plan depends on the funding allocated by Congress. During the implementation period of the former Forest Plan (1988-2003), funding was consistently lower than projections for most program areas. Therefore, the 1988 Forest Plan was implemented more slowly than projected. Table 5 compares the actual allocation for fiscal year 2007 with a level predicted based on the 2003 Forest Plan, by program area (fund type).

To predict a more realistic rate of implementation, the budget level used to develop the 2003 Forest Plan for all programs, except forest products and hazardous fuels, was based on average actual budget allocations from 2001 to 2003. Forest products and hazardous fuels reduction were based on a 10 percent increase over average service level constraints from the Forest Service Budget Formulation and Execution System (BFES). Actual allotment by fund code and program emphasis will vary on an annual basis based on Forest and Regional priorities for a given year, as well as on the will of Congress. Table 8 compares the predicted Forest Plan budget level by program area based on average allotment and Budget Formulation and Execution System (BFES), with the actual allotment for fiscal year 2007.

Table 8. Predicted Versus Actual Forest Budget Levels, Fiscal Years 2004 through 2007. (Note: Carryover dollars are not included in the current year allotment.)

Fund Code	Fund Description	Predicted Forest Plan Budget Level	FY04 Actual Allotment	FY05 Actual Allotment	FY06 Actual Allotment	FY07 Actual Allotment	Percent Difference for FY07 from predicted level
BDBD	Brush Disposal	\$79,510	\$109,262	\$66,404	\$115,000	\$115,000	144%
CMFC/CMII	Facility Construction and Deferred Maintenance	\$632,873	\$612,771	\$366,845	\$662,447	\$447,327	71%
CMRD	Road Construction and Maintenance	\$1,370,254	\$1,270,929	\$1,286,049	\$1,430,598	\$1,264,826	92%
CMTL	Trail Construction and Maintenance	\$301,219	\$273,269	\$250,895	\$208,443	\$286,736	95%
CWKV	Coop Work, KV	\$1,091,546	\$811,518	\$712,647	\$800,000	\$240,000	22%
NFIM	Inventory and Monitoring	\$442,160	\$460,183	\$586,839	\$369,035	\$514,765	116%
NFLM	Land and Ownership Management	\$308,546	\$267,594	\$216,859	\$192,937	\$172,323	56%
NFMG	Minerals and Geology	\$307,785	\$297,727	\$512,284	\$386,692	\$648,571	211%
NFPN	Land Management Planning	\$502,769	\$185,179	\$67,773	\$172,567	\$155,468	31%
NFRG	Grazing Management	\$304,207	\$434,646	\$525,926	\$337,163	\$426,888	140%
NFRW	Recreation/HR/Wilderness	\$733,522	\$741,141	\$851,800	\$931,288	\$805,844	110%
NFTM	Forest Products	\$2,522,000	\$1,858,269	\$2,033,266	\$1,963,927	\$2,673,375	106%
NFVW	Vegetation and Water	\$873,338	\$905,771	\$1,063,720	\$1,846,161	\$1,216,413	139%
NFWF	Wildlife and Fisheries Management	\$555,627	\$455,816	\$447,120	\$802,941	\$488,762	88%

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Fund Code	Fund Description	Predicted Forest Plan Budget Level	FY04 Actual Allotment	FY05 Actual Allotment	FY06 Actual Allotment	FY 2007 Actual Allotment	Percent Difference for FY07 from predicted level
RBRB	Range Betterment	\$33,812	\$31,430	\$45,690	\$42,448	\$64,106	190%
RTRT	Reforestation Trust Fund	\$293,666	\$321,067	\$394,144	\$1,159,809	\$75,310	26%
SSSS	Salvage Sale	\$2,743,302	\$1,749,194	\$921,896	\$200,000	\$200,000	7%
WFHF	Hazardous Fuels	\$1,427,000	\$1,249,727	\$883,167	\$1,641,933	\$1,223,006	86%
WFPR	Fire Preparedness	\$7,322,256	\$6,279,224	\$6,166,000	\$5,311,785	\$7,213,518	99%
	Total	\$21,845,392	\$18,314,717	\$17,399,324	\$18,575,174	\$18,232,238.00	83%

2.1.3 EVALUATION OF POPULATION TRENDS

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

Table 9 shows the management indicator species (MIS) selected for the 2003 Forest Plan. The primary reason a given MIS is 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 9. Management Indicator Species for the Payette National Forest, 2003 Forest Plan.

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

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

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

Accomplishments: In 2007, we expanded this effort with a pilot study of the Rocky Mountain Research Station sampling and habitat suitability protocol that documented bull trout presence in all modeled suitable habitat patches, including one that we thought did not support them.

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. 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.

Accomplishments: Table 10 summarizes the results of the white-headed woodpecker surveys and Table 11 summarizes the results of the pileated woodpecker surveys in 2007.

Table 10. Payette National Forest White-Headed Woodpecker Survey Results.

Year	Transects Monitored	Sightings by Transect	Number of Points Monitored	Number of Sightings by Points
2007	25	1	250	2

Table 11. Payette National Forest Pileated Woodpecker Survey Results.

Year	Transects Monitored	Sightings by Transect	Number of Points Monitored	Number of Sightings by Points
2007	25	11	250	17

Studies on pileated woodpecker and white-headed woodpecker populations and habitat are a priority on the Payette NF and have been ongoing for a number of years. The results of these studies are being summarized in a Five-Year Monitoring Report.

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

The ACS incorporates the monitoring goals identified in the ICBEMP Implementation Strategy and associated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Accomplishments: In fiscal year 2007, emphasis was placed on ACS watersheds for restoration activities. There was a total of 52 restoration target units reported accomplished in ACS subwatersheds. This represents a total of 72 percent of the reported targets.

Table 12. Accomplishments in ACS Priority Watersheds.

Project Name	Subwatershed Name and HUC Number	Acres of Soil and Water Resources Improved	Miles of Stream Habitat Enhanced	WARS Priority	ACS Priority
Little Weiser Vegetation Mgmt	Anderson Creek #170501240702	22		Mod	Yes
Bear Tornado	Bear Creek #170502010601	12		High	Yes
Wesley Creek Fish Passage	Bear Creek #170502010601		10.0	High	Yes
Meadow Creek Riparian Planting	Upper EFSFSR #170602080201		8.0	High	Yes
TOTAL		34	18.0		

2.1.5 EVALUATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

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

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

2.1.5.1 Fisheries Consultation Requirements

In the Table 13, the left hand column briefly summarizes the specific term and condition from the BO, and the right-hand column summarizes how the Forest met or made progress toward that term and condition in 2007.

Table 13. Compliance with Terms and Conditions for Reasonable and Prudent Measures Required by NOAA Fisheries.

Terms and Conditions	Compliance in 2007
# 1 – To implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure #1, clarification of local sideboards. the Forest Service shall:	
<i>A. RCAs – Assess effectiveness of floodprone widths</i>	RCA delineation is occurring as part of project development and riparian monitoring. Project development identifies local landslide hazards.
<i>B. Landslide Prone – Stratify by hazard class</i>	Completed as for RCAs
<i>C. Definitions – Identify change to WCIs and potential effects to WCIs over 3 temporal scales</i>	Changes to WCIs and effects over temporary, short-term, and long-term timescales are evaluated as part of project development. Preliminary development of tentative temperature WCIs for redband trout were proposed in 2007.
<i>D. Fire Management – Develop operational resource guidelines prior to 2004 season</i>	For fire, also see TEOB23 above. In fiscal year 2007, minor deviations from programmatic fire consultation concurrence occurred, but these were resolved in discussions with NMFS and USFWS and did not require full-scale emergency consultation.
# 2 – To Implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure #2, maintain link between LRMP and Broadscale restoration/recovery strategies, the Forest Service shall:	
<i>A. IIT – Provide oversight and accountability body linking to IIT</i>	In fiscal year 2007, coordination with the Interagency Implementation Team (IIT) field crews occurred multiple times.
<i>B. In Upper Salmon, SFSR, and Little Salmon - Framework must be in place to implement “likely to adversely affect” actions</i>	Framework has not been completed, but actions with LAA determinations were submitted to NMFS and USFWS preceding initiation of formal consultation in early 2007. However, the baseline was updated for the section 7 watershed BAs in order to be consistent with the development of the Framework document.
# 3 – To Implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure #3, Upper Salmon and South Fork Salmon direction, the Forest Service shall:	
<i>A. Do not increase ECA above 15% in watersheds with ESA-listed anadromous fishes.</i>	In fiscal year 2007, no ECA increases were planned over 15%.
<i>B. In the South Fork Salmon River (SFSR):</i>	Completed. See FY 2006 report.
<i>1. Revise the default WCIs to values appropriate for the Subbasin</i>	Completed. See FY 2006 report.
<i>2. Continue sampling, analysis, and annual reporting of sediment levels.</i>	Sampling occurred in 2007. Data were compiled, analyzed, and 3 reports covering data through 2007 were completed (Nelson 2007, Nelson and Burns 2007; Nelson et al. 2007).
<i>3. Projects must meet criteria if even a negligible likelihood to adversely effect</i>	Actions at Meadow Creek are being monitored to assure that mitigation measures are effective. Fisheries biologists delivered biological assessments of ongoing Forest actions (principally programmatic actions) whose Letters of Concurrence expired at the end of calendar year 2006 in early 2007.

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

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

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

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

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

2.1.5.2 Wildlife Consultation Requirements

As stated in the fiscal year 2006 monitoring report, the components are conservation measures, not terms and conditions, and thus do not have a mandatory reporting requirement.

2.2 MONITORING ELEMENTS FROM TABLE IV-2 OF THE FOREST PLAN WITH ANNUAL OR TWO-YEAR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

As described in Chapter IV of the Forest Plan, monitoring elements were designed around monitoring questions that need to be answered about Forest Plan implementation. These questions are key to determining if implementation is moving toward the desired conditions in the Forest Plan. This 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 2007, 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: Developed Campground water systems were tested per requirements during the operating season. All water systems in developed sites were had required sanitary surveys and inspections. All test results were entered into INFRA Water Sampling data base. Water system well casings were replaced in both Lafferty and Huckleberry Campgrounds to improve water clarity and taste.

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 2007, the Heritage Program reviewed 81 federal actions for their potential to affect historic properties. Most of these federal actions had formal consultation with the Idaho SHPO. Some of the livestock range allotment NEPA reviews initiated in previous years were completed and sent to Idaho SHPO for review and comment. Some SHPO comments were returned with requests to provide additional information. Some proposed federal actions had adverse effect determinations requiring ongoing consultation and mitigation measures to resolve the adverse effects.

Summary of the Findings: All fiscal year 2007 projects implemented on the Payette NF with historic properties received formal reviews and consultation with the Idaho SHPO. Most of these federal actions with historic properties were monitored during or soon after project implementation. Projects implemented in 2007 caused no affects to historic properties. However, there was one federal action that proceeded without NEPA process and no compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) that resulted in impacts to a previously identified historic property. This unfortunate incident appears to be in violation of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and is currently under law enforcement investigation (Reference Heritage File: PY2007-2084).

There was a second violation of the ARPA where NEPA process and NHPA compliance was completed; however, there was a second record of decision created at a later date changing the protective measure under the first record of decision. The Little Weiser Landscape Analysis and the Section 106 report in compliance with the NHPA were prepared in 1997. This proposed federal action pertained to timber sales, vegetation, and watershed management. The original record of decision of 1998 was changed and updated in 2001 with a new record of decision (ROD). The second ROD removed a “critical protective measure” for a historic property in a two-track road and created an unforeseen future change of condition. Heritage staff was not involved with reviewing the second ROD. The original project design for logging timber was never implemented, and six years later (2007) a secondary activity pertaining to watershed management proceeded. The watershed management action pertained to the obliteration of roads. There was one road that contained a large American Indian archaeological that was obliterated in 2007. The 1997 Determination of Significance and Effect agreement with the Idaho SHPO stated that all 44 historic properties within the project boundary would be avoided from impacts.

In total, there were three agreements with Idaho SHPO created between 1981 and 1997 that stated that the federal action would avoid impacts to historic property PY-403/10AM138. The watershed management action impacted the historic property in violation of the ARPA. This unfortunate incident is currently under law enforcement investigation. Reference Heritage File: PY2007-2100.

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 fiscal year 2007, there were a total of 46 watershed target units reported accomplished. Of the 46 watershed targets reported, 63% in moderate priority watersheds and 37 percent in high priority watersheds (Table 14). All (100 %) of all fish habitat improvement targets were reported in high priority WARS watersheds.

Table 14. 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 Stream Habitat Enhanced	WARS Priority	ACS Priority
Meadows Slope Wildland Fire	Upper Goose Cr. #170602100105	7		Mod	No
Little Weiser Vegetation Mgmt	Anderson Creek #170501240702	22		Mod	Yes
Bear Tornado	Bear Creek #170502010601	12		High	Yes
Wesley Creek Fish Passage	Bear Creek #170502010601		10.0	High	Yes
Burgdorf Roads –	California Creek #170602090803	5		High	No
CA Creek Riparian Planting	California Creek #170602090803		8.0	High	No
Meadow Creek Riparian Planting	Upper EFSFSR #170602080201		8.0	High	Yes
TOTAL		46	26.0		

2.2.2 TWO YEAR MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

2.2.2.1 Water Quality and Beneficial Use

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

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

Work Completed and Findings: Water quality to support beneficial uses is maintained for all Non-Point Source Pollutants through the implementation and monitoring of Best Management Practices (BMPs). BMPs are incorporated as project design features where water quality issues or concerns arise. It is assumed implementation of BMPs occurred on all projects. In 2007, both East Zone and West Zones submitted Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring Plans. However, only limited monitoring results were reported due to the busy fire season on the Payette National Forest.

2.2.2.2 Aquatic Ecosystems

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

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

Work Completed and Findings: This cannot be objectively answered for most WCIs at this time as there is no process in place for monitoring the effects of projects on individual WCIs or 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. Completion of ongoing actions BAs in 2007 may provide for some qualitative comparisons of environmental baselines and suggest a limited answer to this question.

2.3 PROJECT LEVEL MONITORING

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

Each Forest Plan Monitoring and Evaluation report is intended to be a "living" document, meaning information displayed in the 2007 report will be added to the 2008 report. Much of what is learned from monitoring and evaluation is based on how things evolve from year to year, rather than what is learned at a single point in time. For example, trends and answers to several of the questions in Forest Plan Table IV-1 and Table IV-2 become clearer with the accumulation of annual data. .

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5. ACRONYMS AND REFERENCES

ACRONYMS

ACS - Aquatic Conservation Strategy	NAAQS - National Ambient Air Quality Standards
AMS - Airshed Management System	NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act
ARAR - Annual Roads Accomplishment Report	NIDGS - northern Idaho ground squirrel
ASQ - Allowable Sale Quantity	NF - National Forest
ATV - All Terrain Vehicle	NFMA - National Forest Management Act
BA - Biological Assessment	NFS - National Forest System
BAER - Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation	NHPA - National Historic Preservation Act
BFES - Budget Formulation and Execution System	NMFS - National Marine Fisheries Service
BLM - Bureau of Land Management	NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
BO - Biological Opinion	NOI - Notice of Intent
COGS - Columbian ground squirrel	NRHP - National Register of Historic Places
CWMA - Coordinated Weed Management Area	NRIS - Natural Resource Information System
DN - Decision Notice	ORV - Outstandingly Remarkable Values
EA - Environmental Assessment	PNW - Pacific Northwest
EIS - Environmental Impact Statement	SHPO - State Historic Preservation Office
Forest Plan - Payette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	SWRA - Soil, Water, Riparian, Aquatic
EPA - Environmental Protection Agency	RAC - Resource Advisory Committee
ESA - Endangered Species Act	RAP - Road Analysis Process
FCRONR - Frank Church River of No Return	RCA - Riparian Conservation Area
FMP - Facility Master Plan	RNA - Research Natural Area
FONS I - Finding of No Significant Impact	ROD - Record of Decision
FRTA - Forest Roads and Trails Act	TEPC - Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, or Candidate Species under ESA
FSM/FSH - Forest Service Manual/Handbook	TMDL - Total Maximum Daily Loads
FY - Fiscal Year	TSPQ - Total Sale Program Quantity
GSA - General Services Administration	TSRC - Total Soil Resource Commitment
GIS - Geographic Information System	USDA - United States Department of Agriculture
ICBEMP - Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project	USDA-APHIS - USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
ICDC - Conservation Data Center	USFS - US Forest Service
ID - Interdisciplinary	USFWS - US Fish and Wildlife Service
IDEQ - State of Idaho, Department of Environment Quality	WAG - Watershed Advisory Groups
IDFG - Idaho Department of Fish and Game	WARS - Watershed and Aquatic Recovery Strategy
IDL - Idaho Department of Lands	WCI - Watershed Condition Indicator
IDPR - Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation	WCS - Wildlife Conservation Strategy
IDWR - Idaho Department of Water Resources	WFU - Wildland Fire Use
IIT - Interagency Implementation Team	WS - Wildlife Services
MIS - Management Indicator Species	WUI - Wildland Urban Interface
MMBF - Million board feet	WWW - World Wide Web
MOA - Memorandum of Agreement	YCC - Youth Conservation Crews
MOU - Memorandum of Understanding	

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