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To: Regional Forester, R2

Please find the attached Nebraska National Forest and Associated Units FY 2006 Monitoring and Evaluation Report, which accomplishes the required PAR reporting.

DONALD J. BRIGHT
Forest Supervisor



Monitoring and Evaluation Report

Fiscal Year 2006



Spotted Tail Fire: Dawes County Complex July 2006

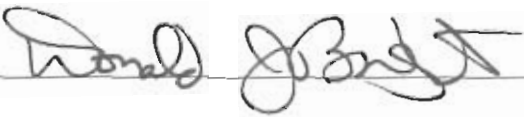
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APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION

I certify that the Nebraska National Forest and Associated Units Land and Resource Management Plan 2001 Revision (LRMP), is adequate to guide management of the Nebraska National Forest and Associated Units for 2006.



Donald J. Bright, Forest Supervisor Date: 9-24-07

INTRODUCTION

Background

The Nebraska National Forest and Associated Units consists of 1,065,000 acres divided into six administrative units in western Nebraska and western South Dakota, known collectively as the “Nebraska National Forest.” The Forest includes two proclaimed national forests--the Nebraska, composed of the Pine Ridge and Bessey Ranger Districts, and the Samuel R. McKelvie, which is managed as part of the Bessey Ranger District. Three national grasslands make up the bulk of the land base. The Oglala National Grassland in northwest Nebraska is managed as part of the Pine Ridge Ranger District. The Buffalo Gap National Grassland is managed as two ranger districts, with the Fall River RD office in Hot Springs, SD and the Wall RD office co-located with the National Grasslands Visitor Center in Wall, SD. The Fort Pierre National Grassland office is located in Fort Pierre, SD. The final unit is the Charles E. Bessey Nursery, the country’s first federal tree nursery. The nursery headquarters is co-located with the Bessey RD headquarters in central Nebraska, near Halsey.

On July 31, 2002 Rocky Mountain Regional Forester, Rick Cables, signed the Record of Decision to implement a revised management plan for the Nebraska National Forest Units. USDA Deputy Under Secretary David Tenny rendered the final administrative appeal decision upholding the Record of Decision, on May 5, 2003. This monitoring report is the forth report to be completed under the new plan. For that reason and the fact that many of the monitoring items have a reporting frequency of five to ten years, evaluation of the monitored items will be somewhat limited. The current emphasis is placed upon collecting baseline and supporting data for future use in helping to determine trend information toward or away from achieving desired conditions. Baseline timeframe for key monitoring items is assumed to be the date the Record of Decision was signed, and will be used in the FY 2006 monitoring Report.

Monitoring Purpose

Effective Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) monitoring and evaluation fosters improved management and more informed planning decisions. It helps identify the need to adjust desired conditions, goals, objectives, standards and guidelines as conditions change. Monitoring and evaluation helps forests, grasslands, the Agency and the public determine how a LRMP is being implemented, whether plan implementation is achieving desired outcomes, and whether assumptions made in the planning process are valid.

Monitoring and evaluation are learning tools that form the backbone of adaptive management. With these tools, information is collected and compiled to serve as reference points for the future; new scientific understanding and technology, changes in law and policy and resource conditions, growing concerns, trends and changing societal values are incorporated into forest/grassland planning; and the scientific validity and appropriateness of assumptions used in the development of forest and grassland plans is evaluated. In short, they breathe life into a static document—the LRMP—to make it dynamic, relevant and useful.

Several kinds of activities can be referred to as “monitoring.”

- **Programmatic monitoring** tracks and evaluates trends of ecological, social, or economic outcomes.
- **Project implementation monitoring** monitors compliance with LRMP standards and guidelines.
- **Effectiveness monitoring** evaluates how effective our management actions are at achieving desired outcomes.
- **Validation monitoring** verifies assumptions and models used in LRMP implementation. Monitoring may also address issues for large geographic areas of which a forest or grassland is a part. These types of monitoring are addressed in LRMPs.

Monitoring and evaluation are conducted at several scales and for many purposes, each of which has different objectives and requirements. Monitoring requirements and tasks are developed to be responsive to the objectives and scale of the plan, program, or project to be monitored.

Monitoring and evaluation are separate, sequential activities required by NFMA regulations to determine how well

objectives have been met and how closely management standards and guidelines have been applied. Monitoring generally includes the collection of data and information, either by observation or measurement. Evaluation is the analysis of the data and information collected during the monitoring phase. The evaluation results are used to answer the monitoring questions, determine the need to revise or amend management plans or how they are implemented, and form a basis for adaptively managing the national grasslands and forests.

Monitoring provides the Forest Supervisor with the information necessary to determine whether the Revised Management Plan is sufficient to guide management of the National Grasslands and Forests for the subsequent year or whether modification of the plan is needed.

Reasons for Monitoring (Monitoring Drivers)

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requires national forests and grasslands to do specific monitoring tasks. The level and intensity of any additional monitoring is dependent on available staffing, funding and forest or grassland priorities.

Following is a list of reasons (monitoring drivers) why certain items are included in a LRMP:

- Legal and regulatory requirements
- Forest Service Manual direction
- Tracking forest/grassland desired conditions, goals and objectives
- Validation of models/assumptions
- Tracking agency expectations
- Tracking public expectations/issues
- Tracking LRMP standards and guidelines
- Contributions to broad-scale monitoring
- Court rulings

Monitoring Priorities

After monitoring questions are developed, a screening process sorts the more significant questions from the less significant to ensure efficient use of limited resources—time, money and personnel. The priority of a question may affect the intensity or extent of associated monitoring activities. Following is a list of questions used in the screening process with a brief explanation or example:

1. **Is there a high degree of uncertainty associated with management assumptions?** *Examples:*
 - a new way of doing something where there is limited experience with the new technique;
 - actions taken in response to an unprecedented situation;
 - a lack of data for a particular resource response to a management action.
2. **Is there a high degree of disparity between existing and desired conditions?** *Examples:*
 - a particular habitat component is at a much lower level than desired;
 - the amount of use of a particular resource or use at a particular location is much higher than desired.
3. **Are proposed management activities likely to affect resources of concern?**
 - There may be other forces affecting a resource much more significantly than anything the Forest Service does.
 - Also, there may be portions of the landscape where no management activities are planned. An efficient

monitoring strategy will focus on those circumstances where management activities are expected to have a discernable outcome.

4. **What are the consequences of not knowing resource conditions?** *Examples:*

- if a species is at risk, consequences could be high, whether or not management activities are likely to affect it;
- if a relationship with cooperators or local government is at risk due to a management activity, consequences could be high (in this case, a *human* resource).

5. **Will monitoring respond to a key issue?**

- Key issues identified through scoping may warrant monitoring *even if* they are
 - well understood,
 - the existing condition is good and
 - management activities will have little impact. Monitoring may be necessary for educational and/or accountability purposes.

6. **In addition to the above, can the question be cost effectively answered?**

- If the cost of answering the question is especially high in regard to benefits, or if an adequate monitoring method cannot be developed, the resource in question may be more appropriately studied by another entity, such as Forest Service research or private educational institutions.

Evaluation Process

The Forest/Grassland ID Team evaluates the data and information collected through monitoring. Successful adaptive management depends on collectively evaluating the effectiveness of management activities in moving the Forest or Grassland toward desired conditions. The “desired condition” (or other driver) that prompted the development of a monitoring question is typically associated with one or more monitoring items. Whereas the desired condition may be conceptual or visionary in nature, the monitoring items are generally a measurable aspect of the desired condition.

Evaluation is the process of transforming data into information—a value-added process. It is a process of synthesis that brings together value, judgment and reason with monitoring information to answer the question, “So what?” and perhaps, “Why?”

As noted earlier, the fact that FY 2006 is only the forth year of implementation following the final administrative appeal resolution means that the forest will collect baseline monitoring data, but for many of the items with a five to ten year reporting frequency there is currently too little data to attempt any significant evaluation. There are exceptions; such as effects on adjacent communities of National Forest System management, which is a monitoring item with an annual reporting frequency. Other items with annual reporting frequencies include several Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E) items.

Please refer to the LRMP, Chapter 4 (Monitoring and Evaluation) for a more complete description of the monitoring strategy and its components.

Appendix A has the Monitoring Strategy outlined in tabular form, the type of monitoring (Effectiveness, Implementation, or Validation), the reasons for the particular monitoring (monitoring drivers), monitoring questions, reporting frequency, and monitoring data collected. If a district or unit is not listed under a monitoring question the monitoring question was not applicable for that unit.

NOTE: The following pages summarize the site specific data found in Appendix A.

EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING

Riparian 1: To what extent are perennial streams in proper functioning condition and riparian areas and wooded draws regenerating?

No formal monitoring was completed on the forest in FY 2006.

Soil 1: To what extent have soils eroded or disturbed by Forest Service management or permitted activities been restored?

Baseline soil stability tests were established on approximately 6 different sites in the Edgemont area on the Buffalo Gap National Grassland.

Several districts are reporting that soil erosion is occurring along many of the riparian areas and some upland areas due to off road travel and/or non-maintained roads. Areas of soil erosion and associated resources concern will be addressed in district's Travel Management NEPA documents scheduled to be completed during FY2008 and FY2009.

Watershed 1: To what extent has water quality condition on watersheds containing National Forest System lands been restored, maintained or improved?

South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources set up a Conata Basin Watershed Assessment Project to document total suspended solids, fecal coliform & E. coli bacteria contributions from control watersheds (no livestock grazing, no black-tailed prairie dog colonies), watersheds inside Badlands National Park with black-tailed prairie dog colonies but no livestock grazing and lastly watersheds within Conata Basin with livestock (cattle) grazing but no black-tailed prairie dog colonies. The field data collected in 2006 is being analyzed and a final report is pending.

The USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service and South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources continued their long-term study of the Upper Bad River Watershed Project. Field work is essentially complete and a final report is pending. South Dakota State University is proposing a new study within this watershed which will measure the frequency and distribution of cow patties near the creeks.

Watershed 2: To what extent have waterbodies on National Forest System lands that have been degraded by Forest Service permitted or management actions been restored?

No formal monitoring was completed on the forest in FY 2006.

Watershed 3: To what extent have in-stream flows been assured to provide adequate water for fisheries and other riverine flora and fauna in streams and rivers with high resource values?

No formal monitoring was completed on the forest in FY 2006.

Watershed 4: To what extent have surface water, sub-surface flows, and aquifers been protected from contamination from abandoned wells.

Two wells were decommissioned on the forest following state guideline to insure that no contamination of surface waters, subsurface flows and aquifers would occur.

MIS 1: What is the potential habitat capability for each management indicator species?

Plains sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chicken

To monitor habitat for MIS greater prairie chicken, a 10% random survey of residual grass visual obstruction readings (VORs) was completed on the Fort Pierre National Grassland. The potential of the grassland to produce grass cover was also monitored in pastures rested from grazing for two years. The mean spring VOR for residual cover for the entire grassland was about 2.48", and the potential VOR was 3.5". Since 2000, precipitation and temperatures during the grouse nesting and brood-rearing season have been variable, with a tendency to be hot and dry. Climatic conditions have not always been favorable for grouse reproduction. Temporary reductions in annual cattle grazing have helped to maintain at least minimal habitat for prairie grouse.

Visual obstruction readings in association with plains sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chicken surveys were completed on the Samuel R. McKelvie. Thirty transects in the uplands and thirty transects in the lowlands for the plains sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chicken covered 16,032 acres of habitat.

Visual obstruction readings were taken at 58 random transects across the Pine Ridge District. Habitat suitability evaluations for this area were documented in the Northern Great Plains EIS (Table 3-132) and in the official project files at the District Office.

Sage grouse

Monitoring of the Greater Sage Grouse display grounds was completed and leks surveys were conducted in the 3.64 Special Plant and Wildlife Area. One lek was located with 5 males and 3 females present.

Pygmy Nuthatch

No formal monitoring was completed on the forest in FY 2006. Pygmy nuthatch habitat was affected by the Spotted Tail fire and monitoring of the area for impacts will be done in FY2007.

Black-tailed prairie dogs

MIS black-tailed prairie dog potential habitat capability was not monitored in FY2006. Dry conditions since 2000 have produced lower vegetation structure than that occurring the previous decade. This has produced higher potential habitat for prairie dogs. It should be noted that tolerance of private landowners to encroachment from adjacent prairie dog colonies is part of the potential for growth of the colonies.

MIS 2: What is the current habitat suitability for each management indicator species?

Plains sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chicken

Habitat suitability evaluations for plains sharp-tailed grouse were conducted across the Southeast and Northeast Geographic Areas of the Buffalo Gap National Grassland. Precipitation was below normal and VOR readings are very low across the district

To monitor habitat for greater prairie chicken and sharp-tailed grouse, a 10% random survey of residual grass visual obstruction readings (VORs) was completed on the Fort Pierre Geographic Area. The potential of the grassland to produce grass cover was also monitored in pastures rested from grazing for two years. Nesting and brood-rearing cover is thought to be the limiting life requisite for prairie chickens. Local habitat suitability for this can be determined by establishing a graph line between the minimum visual obstruction reading for nesting cover (2.0") and the current potential cover, which was 3.5". The habitat suitability for a mean VOR of 2.48" across the grassland is about .31, or 31% of potential.

Habitat suitability evaluations for plains sharp-tailed grouse across the entire district have been completed and documented. Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse monitoring in FY2006 consisted of 18,344 acres being surveyed on the Oglala and Pine Ridge Geographic Areas. Eleven active display ground sites were identified. Visual observation readings were taken at 33 random transects across the District. Additional years of monitoring are needed to establish current habitat suitability levels for plains sharp-tailed grouse.

Sage grouse

Monitoring of the Greater Sage Grouse display grounds was completed and leks surveys were conducted in the 3.64 Special Plant and Wildlife Area. One lek was located with 5 males and 3 females present.

Pygmy Nuthatch

No formal monitoring on Pygmy Nuthatch habitat was completed.

Black-tailed prairie dogs

As a result of a NEPA decision in August 2005, management activities consisted of rodenticide use along boundaries with private lands. An inventory of Black-tailed Prairie Dog towns was completed in 2006; the colonies scheduled for control were GPS'ed. Approximately 8,000 acres of prairie dogs were controlled in the boundary management area.

Although undocumented it is believed that plague is in the colonies near Smithwick and north of Highway 18 West of Edgemont.

MIS 3: What are the long-term population trends for each management indicator species and the relationships between long-term population trends and the effects of management activities on habitats on NFS lands?

Plains sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chicken

Systematic grouse lek surveys occurred from 2000 to 2006 across the forest. Monitoring units have been established to monitor long term population trends of plains sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chicken. The monitoring dataset is currently insufficient to detect long-term population trends in response to management activities. Due to the drought conditions of the last few years, the preliminary indication are that numbers are decreasing.

On the Fort Pierre National grassland the number of male prairie chickens was six percent lower than it had been the previous spring. The grassland has been in a drought cycle since 2000. This has been somewhat unfavorable to grouse reproduction. Even at the current level, the number of male prairie chickens is much higher than it was after the very dry years of the 1980's. More nesting and brood-rearing cover due to lower cattle stocking is a likely factor responsible for that.

The number of male sharp-tailed grouse was about 63% lower than it was the previous year. The exact reason for this is unknown. Some factor other than habitat may be a factor. The long-term trend of this species needs to be taken into consideration.

Sage grouse

Monitoring of the Greater Sage Grouse display grounds was completed and leks surveys were conducted in the 3.64 Special Plant and Wildlife Area. One lek was located with 5 males and 3 females present.

Pygmy Nuthatch

No formal monitoring on Pygmy Nuthatch habitat on the Pine Ridge was completed. The monitoring dataset is currently insufficient to detect long-term population trends for the sharp-tailed grouse and pygmy nuthatch in response to management activities.

Black-tailed prairie dogs

Only black-tailed prairie dog colonies identified for treatment with rodenticide in the Boundary Management Zone were actively monitored. Acreages within the interior on the Fort Pierre National Grassland tend to indicate that population trends are stable to increasing when not including boundary management activities. The population

grew through the 1990's, and then declined a bit as good precipitation resulted in tall, dense grass cover. But since 2000, the occasional drought conditions have reduced cover and allowed the rodents to expand.

Most colonies treated outside the Connate Basin on the eastern half of the Buffalo Gap National Grassland are showing very low prairie dog activity and no growth, especially if the entire colony was treated as opposed to a portion of the colony. In the Conata Basin, those colonies treated within the Boundary Management Zone are still expanding because only a portion of the colony was treated. Prairie dogs within the same colony but outside the treatment zone are moving into the treated sites and even expanding the overall size of the colony. Although undocumented it is believed that plague is in the colonies near Smithwick and north of Highway 18 West of Edgemont in the western portion of the Buffalo Gap National Grassland.

T&E 1: To what extent are NFS lands and their management contributing to the recovery and viability of black-footed ferrets?

Systematic monitoring, live-trapping and micro-chipping of the black-footed ferret in the Conata Basin 3.63 Management Area was completed. Currently, black-footed ferret populations have been established on three prairie dog complexes scattered across Conata Basin with a wild, free-roaming population of over 200 ferrets. The minimum population estimate for 2006 was 220 animals (123 kits and 97 adults). This ferret population has contributed greatly to the species recovery and also serves as a donor site to other ferret reintroduction sites in the nation.

Black-footed ferrets have not been reintroduced in the Smithwick 3.63 Management Area. Although undocumented it is believed that plague is in the colonies near Smithwick and prairie dog densities appear to be lower.

T&E 2: To what extent are NFS lands and their management contributing to the recovery and viability of blowout penstemon?

All reintroduction sites were monitored in accordance to the recovery plan. Many of the reintroduction populations were in good shape and some have been identified needing additional plantings. The monitoring dataset is currently insufficient to detect long-term population trends in response to management activities.

T&E 3: To what extent are NFS lands and their management contributing to the recovery and viability of bald eagle?

Systematic monitoring was completed along the Cheyenne River. Three mature bald eagles were observed but no nesting attempts were observed. Incidental sightings were observed in the Conata Basin Area from late November into early spring of 2007.

T&E 4: To what extent are NFS lands and their management contributing to the recovery and viability of the American burying beetle?

Specific beetle survey and monitoring protocols were developed and will be implemented when ground disturbing activities require such actions. An Environmental assessment was completed for the Bessey II Hazardous Fuels project; consultation concerning the American burying beetle with USFWS and NGPC occurred.

T&E 5: To what extent are NFS lands and their management contributing to the recovery and viability of whooping crane?

No observations or incidental sightings were recorded during field visits to these habitats. While whooping cranes could rest on ponds during migration; they have not been reported on the ground since 1983. Occasionally, they are sighted overhead during migration.

T&E 6: To What Extent are NFS Lands and Their Management Contributing to the Recovery and Viability of Mountain Plover?

No formal monitoring completed in FY 2006 and no observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.

T&E 7: Does Ute ladies' tresses or potential habitat for the species occur on the NFS lands within the planning area?

No formal monitoring completed in FY 2006 and no observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.

Viability 1: To what extent are National Forest System Lands and their management contributing to the viability of sensitive plant and animal species that are generally found in grassland and sagebrush habitats?

Greater prairie chicken surveys covering 16,032 acres of uplands and lowlands were completed on the Samuel R. McKelvie.

Sensitive grassland species that the South Dakota grasslands provide habitat for include swift fox, grasshopper sparrow, short-eared owl, ferruginous hawks, chestnut-collared longspur, northern harrier, American peregrine falcon, loggerhead shrike, long-billed curlew and regal fritillary butterfly. The 2006 butterfly survey failed to find the Otoe skipper.

The swift fox was reintroduced by Badlands National Park in 2004, with subsequent releases in 2005 and 2006. The Buffalo Gap National grassland and nearby private land serves as the primary habitat for the species. The grasslands serve as excellent habitat for the species because of the large expanses of short grass prairie and grazing that keeps vegetative structure low - a desirable habitat component for the species. As of December 2006, the estimated population size was 55 adults that produced 15 litters for a total of 55 pups.

The final report was received for a floristic survey conducted on the Eastern half of the Buffalo Gap National Grassland with one occurrence of Barr Milkvetch and five occurrences of Dakota Wild-Buckwheat.

Viability 2: To what extent are National Forest System Lands and their management contributing to the viability of sensitive plant and animal species that are generally found in riparian and wetland habitats?

Systematic monitoring was completed along the Cheyenne River. Yellow-billed cuckoo and loggerhead shrikes were observed. These sightings were insufficient to draw monitoring conclusions but will be used to help establish a baseline for future monitoring results.

Sensitive wetland species that the grassland provides habitat for are the American bittern, black tern, and northern leopard frog. Construction of stock-watering ponds on the grassland has produced a lot of permanent leopard frog habitat. Managed grazing systems have helped to maintain water quality.

Viability 3: To what extent are National Forest System Lands and their management contributing to the viability of sensitive plant and animal species that are found in aquatic habitats?

No formal monitoring completed in FY 2006 and no observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.

Viability 4: To what extent are National Forest System Lands and their management contributing to the viability of sensitive plant and animal species that are generally found in forested habitats?

The yellow-billed cuckoo is a sensitive species that inhabits dense deciduous tree and shrub thickets found in the vicinity of the grasslands. Occasional observations or incidental sightings of sensitive species have been recorded during field visits to these habitats in 2006. These sightings were insufficient to draw monitoring conclusions but will be used to help establish a baseline for future monitoring results.

Viability 5: To what extent are National Forest System Lands and their management contributing to the viability of sensitive animal species that are heavily dependent on prairie dog colony habitat?

An inventory of black-tailed prairie dog towns across the grassland units was completed in 2006. Only black-tailed prairie dog colonies identified for treatment with rodenticide in the Boundary Management Zone were monitored in regards to acreage expansion.

Incident sighting of burrowing owls were recorded across the grasslands during the inventory of the black-tailed prairie dog towns. Additionally, 17 prairie dog colonies were surveyed as part of a larger burrowing owl research project. There were a total of 98 burrowing owl nests found in the prairie dog colonies surveyed. This resulted in 100% occupancy of surveyed colonies and nests fledged on average 3.5 chicks.

The Nebraska National forest is working with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on plague monitoring. The status of plague in the area has not changed since 2005. Plague activity is within 20 miles of the Conata Basin and Badlands National Park reported a sero-positive coyote on the edge of Conata Basin. Windshield surveys by the USF&WS have found no evidence of plague on the Wall Ranger District. Approximately 1,650 acres (2 colonies in the Sage Creek Area) were dusted totaling 93,867 burrows. Although undocumented it is believed that plague is in the colonies near Smithwick and north of Highway 18 West of Edgemont.

Prairie dog densities were evaluated in the Conata Basin and Heck Table Area. Prairie dog acreages are on an upward trend in the Conata Basin, even with Boundary Zone Management. A mean density of 12.0 prairie dogs per acre was estimated in the Conata Basin and Heck Table area. The prairie dog acreages on the Buffalo Gap National Grassland, especially in Conata Basin, have contributed to the viability of the burrowing owl and possibly the swift fox.

Viability 6: To what extent are National Forest System Lands and their management contributing to the viability of sensitive plant and animal species that are generally found in special habitats like caves, cliffs, buttes, blowouts, and barren habitats?

The planted blowout penstemon was monitored according to the recovery plan. The data was insufficient to draw monitoring conclusions but will be used to help establish a baseline for future population surveys.

Viability 7: To what extent have cooperative agreements and the landownership adjustment program been effective in reducing private land conflicts involving prairie dogs and enhancing long-term opportunities for development of prairie dog colony complexes in the priority National Grassland areas.

Two-hundred seventy-two acres of NFS land was exchanged for 240 acres of private land in the northeast grassland. This will allow a nearby prairie dog town to expand somewhat over what it could have expanded without the land exchange.

Wildlife 1: Is habitat effectiveness on designated big game range being maintained or enhanced?

No formal monitoring completed in FY 2006

Community Relations 1: To what extent are noxious weeds, invasive species, and animal damage spreading from National Forest System lands to other ownerships or from lands managed by other government agencies to National Forest System lands?

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks conducted limited predator control on the national grasslands where predation was occurring on adjoining lands. Forest Service personnel coordinated with the state to help ensure appropriate and effective responses to livestock producer complaints regarding predator damage.

Prairie dog acres increased due to continuing drought conditions on most of the units. Only black-tailed prairie dog colonies identified for treatment with rodenticide in the Boundary Management Zone (BMZ) were monitored. Five miles of two-strand electric fence installed along the half-mile BMZ in the Conata West and Lower Sage Creek allotments (MA 3.63) to prevent livestock grazing. Due to drought conditions and lack of vegetative growth, no difference was observed in vegetation between the ungrazed and grazed areas. Monitoring in 2006 on the Oglala

National Grasslands indicates that the acres of prairie dog colonies decreased 4% from 2004. Prairie dog colony expansion from NFS lands to adjacent private lands is occurring on some of the colonies.

Eight plots were read on the Hardpan allotment. Five provide two year post-burn data as required in the burn plan. Three provide pre-burn data for a planned broadcast burn. 1) Three plots are in the Cheyenne River valley, five are on upland areas dominated by Western Wheat grass. 2) Of these five, one was fenced out from grazing immediately after the burn; one is in an area that was not burned but continued to be grazed, and three were both burned and grazed. No analysis of the data collected has occurred at the present time.

Noxious weeds continue to encroach to and from private and state-owned land from and to NFS lands primarily along wildlife/livestock travel routes, streams, and by wind-blown seeds. Total actual acres of noxious weed spread from and to other ownerships have not been determined. In addition, the 2006 Dawes and Sioux County fires have increased the likelihood of weed encroachment to and from private and state-owned lands. Dawes County and Sioux County both received grant funding (total \$37311) through the Nebraska State and Private Forestry and Forest Service to control noxious weeds on private lands adjacent to federal lands.

Noxious weeds, especially Canada thistle, have been spreading from the Badlands National Park to National Grasslands and adjoining private lands. Other noxious weeds adjacent to private land include Russian knapweed, and hoary cress. Sickkleweed (*Falcaria vulgaris*) was discovered in the Wall North Geographic Area in August, 2006, and on adjacent farmland to the north. Discovered too late in the season to spray, sickkleweed plants were clipped, bagged and incinerated. Coordination with Pennington County weed & pest department concerning sickkleweed infestation location and control on adjacent private land was accomplished.

Damage Control 1: To what extent are destructive insect and disease outbreaks prevented following management activities? (See also Community 1)

No reports were received from Forest Health Protection in 2006, but pine tree mortality is continuing to result from the 2005 hail storms on the Bessey Ranger District.

The Spotted-tail wildfire burned through most of the Ips - Diplodia monitoring plots established by Forest Health Protection in the King's Canyon area. The wildfire could result in a buildup of pine engraver beetles that could spread to adjacent unburned stands or could infest remaining fire stressed trees, resulting in additional mortality. Additional post-fire tree mortality can be expected within the next 1 to 3 years.

Monitoring for sylvatic plague using consistent weekly windshield surveys of prairie dog activity within MA 3.63 were conducted by US Fish & Wildlife Service. Sylvatic plague is known to be lethal to prairie dogs & black-footed ferrets; sylvatic plague is known to occur on prairie dog colonies approximately 30 miles south of Conata Basin. No destructive disease outbreaks were observed during field visits by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. As a prophylactic measure, the US Fish & Wildlife Service applied a flea-killing insecticide (Delta Dust) to burrow entrances, to inhibit the spread of sylvatic plague should this disease occur within the 3.63 ferret habitat area in the future. DeltaDust was applied to approx. 93,000 prairie dog burrow entrances on 1,650 acres of prairie dog colonies

APHIS sampled coyotes within Conata & Scenic Basin areas, tested for plague titers and categorized ectoparasites including fleas in August. . The presence of sylvatic plague was not detected within the Conata Basin 3.63 ferret habitat area. .

Burrow swabbing for plague surveillance and a flea study was conducted by Prairie Wildlife Research, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, & US Fish & Wildlife Service USFWS. Results from this study are still pending

Damage Control 2: To what extent are noxious weeds, invasive species, and animal damage expanding or being reduced?

The Nebraska National Forest monitored, inventoried and controlled numerous noxious and invasive plant species infestations in 2006 totaling several thousand acres. Species controlled included Canada thistle, hoary cress, russian knapweed; salt cedar and leafy spurge. Sickkleweed (*Falcaria vulgaris*) was first found on the Fort Pierre

National grassland several years and ago and this year was found on the Buffalo Gap National Grassland. Consultation with the Pennington County weed board resulted in coordinated effort to stop the further spread of this weed. The Pine Ridge District noxious weed management coordinator worked with Dawes, Sioux, Blaine, Thomas and Cherry County Weed Superintendents who received, a combined sum, of \$51281 in State and Private Forestry Grants.

Treatment of these noxious weeds resulted in an estimated 90% effective control for areas mapped and treated. The units anticipate additional areas will need treatment due to continued prolonged drought conditions, including hot dry winds throughout July 2006, which enhanced noxious weed seed dispersal. Also it is anticipated that due to opportunistic nature of noxious weeds following drought new infestations will occur when normal precipitation returns. Data was collected from 18 plots in the Cheyenne River drainage but the analysis of the data has not been completed

Prairie dogs were controlled in the Boundary Management Zones on the Buffalo Gap, Ft. Pierre and Oglala Grasslands. Prairie dog colony expansion on the Oglala National Grassland was monitored in 2006 and indicates that of the treatment was more than 90% effective.

Vegetation 1: To what extent are rangeland vegetation structure objectives being met?

A deepening drought occurred across almost all of the units of the Nebraska National Forest. Drought management practices were again in place (livestock went on June 1 or later, less livestock numbers, modified rotations, no-use). Drought guidelines were developed allotment by allotment, forest wide. In addition, numerous range readiness studies and utilization studies were completed forest wide to assist with management decision during the drought. Several areas implemented reductions in livestock numbers for the entire season, and many areas experienced early livestock removals. Actual use by pasture was collected and stored in the I-Web database, Range module, for future analysis.

Visual obstruction transects were completed across the forest. Visual obstruction reading summaries have not been completed at this time for the entire forest, although initial personal reviews from data collectors indicate that vegetation structure was reduced in many areas. For the Oglala Grazing Association, the following is current vegetation structural condition: 0% low, 84-92% moderate, and 8-16% high. The Forest Plan objective for structural stage is 5-15% in low, 65-85% in moderate, and 10-20% in high structural stage. To implement the Forest Plan approximately 5-15% of existing moderate structure rangeland will need to be managed for low structural stage.

Vegetation 2: To what extent are rangeland vegetation composition objectives being met?

Summaries of rangeland vegetation composition are completed during the allotment management planning process. Six range analysis transects were completed in the West Geographical area in preparation for allotment management planning which is expected to occur in 2007-2008.

Eighteen of twenty long-term monitoring plots that were established in the Cheyenne River drainage in 2002 were re-read. Data from these plots indicate vegetation composition objectives are being met in the Gamet allotment and to a lesser degree on the Hardpan allotment.

Forty five pastures on the Oglala National Grasslands were analyzed to determine the current vegetative community according to USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service ecological site descriptions and the transitional pathways that would lead to historic climax plant community.

Vegetation 3: To what extent are desired vegetation conditions in forested areas being met?

On the Bessey Ranger District approximately 1,529 acres out of 10,549 acres or 14% of mixed pine stands have been thinned to begin moving them toward more open park-like conditions and to improve long-term stand health. Thinning also removed eastern red cedar; where it was encroaching into the pine stands. About 867 acres out of 2282 acres or 38% of eastern red cedar blocks have been thinned. Encroaching eastern red cedar has been removed

from 2797 acres or 19% of the native grassland areas within the Bessey plantation Special Interest Area. This area is moving toward the desired conditions identified in the Forest Plan.

Beyond contract administration, no formal monitoring has been completed on mechanical treatment units. All units planned for mechanical thinning (1542 acres under the Chadron Creek Fuels Reduction Project) will be completed in 2007. Approximately 104 of the recently thinned acres burned in the Spotted-Tail wildfire (July 2006). Based on post-fire aerial photography & some ground truthing, tree mortality following the Spotted-Tail & Robert's Tract fires was 100% in high severity burn areas. Tree mortality was 90-100% in the moderate severity burn areas in the Spotted-Tail fire and more variable and patchier in the Robert's Tract fire (60-70%). The fires moved many pine stands from a mature structural stage to the grass/forb stage. Reforestation will be needed to re-establish pine in some areas where all seed sources have been eliminated. The Dawes County Fire Complex Rapid Assessment is on file at the District and Supervisor's Offices. The district will continue to monitor tree mortality into 2007 & 2008.

Two long-term plots were established in the ponderosa stands that were partially burned in the 4-Corners fire (January of 2006). Immediately after the fire, data was gathered from both sites that included char height, scorch height, and fuel loading. A complete data set was gathered at the end of July, but has not yet been fully analyzed.

Vegetation 4: To what extent are desired vegetation conditions in wetlands being met?

No formal monitoring completed in FY2006.

Recreation 1: To what extent are trails managed to meet regional standards and to minimize conflicts among users.

Trail users have not been surveyed for conflicts. Approximately one third of the trails are managed to standard each year. The remaining trails are being maintained but to a lesser standard. The travel management process will resume in FY2008 and FY2009 and will address the needs of trail users. Trails with the greatest need for maintenance are given first priority.

Trail is mowed to a height below the sprocket level of bicycles. No user group conflicts reported.

Recreation 2: Where does the demand for recreation opportunities warrant development of additional opportunities such as trails or campgrounds?

Meetings with the public have been conducted to gather information on trails needs. There is a demand for motorized trails that will be addressed during the travel management process scheduled to occur in 2007-2009. Saddle Pass Trail in the Rake Creek Area was initiated by a proponent and the district is starting the NEPA process. Proponent received cost sharing money from South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks for the trail.

No formal monitoring has been done for additional campground opportunities. The Recreation strategy calls for no additional campground construction with the possibility of campground closures.

Recreation 3: To what extent are Grassland and Forest visitors informed of the recreation opportunities available to them; are they adequately guided to those recreation opportunities; and do they receive adequate interpretive information on National Register of Historic Places and other heritage sites, geologic, paleontologic, wildlife, plant, and recreation resources or opportunities?

Phone inquiries are directed to the Nebraska National Forest website if it would inform visitors of the recreation opportunities they are interested in pursuing. An estimated 15% of phone inquiries had searched for information on the NNF website and could not find the information they were searching for or they wanted additional information. Form letters were sent to people who requested recreation information along with any supplemental information available such as flora and fauna checklists. An estimated decrease in inquiries about OHV opportunities of seventy-five percent occurred from 2006 compared to 2005.

Prairie dog shooting packets were assembled and the Nebraska National Forest website was updated on prairie dog shooting opportunities.

Rock hounding is the second most popular recreation activity behind prairie dog shooting. The rock hounding handout continues to be a valuable tool providing consistent information to all inquiries in person, by phone or mail. The fossil poster continues to be a desirable information source to the visitors about paleontological resources.

Temporary exhibits in the National Grasslands Visitor Center are designed to respond to Forest Service issues and topics such as weeds or black-footed ferrets.

District recreation maps are available at the Supervisors office and district personnel continue to provide recreation information to walk in and call in recreational questioners.

The Hudson Meng Bison Kill Site is operated under a special use permit by the Mammoth Site who provides interpretation to the public from May 15th thru Labor Day weekend 7 days a week.

Travel and Access 1: What are the effects of vehicle use off roads?

No formal monitoring has been done however district personnel have observed an increase of user created trails and resource damage over the last several years. The forest has started to identify and map user-defined trails in preparation for travel management. The travel management process has started on the Fort Pierre National Grassland and will be finalized in 2007. The other units of the Nebraska National Forest are in various preliminary stages of travel management and the forest will complete the process in 2009.

Heritage 1: To what extent are National Register sites and districts being protected and preserved?

Historic Bessey Nursery (TM00-1/25TM11) was visited numerous times during 2006. The site is being fully protected and preserved. No incidents of vandalism were reported or observed. Nursery tours were available to the public and interpretive panels were in place.

Hudson-Meng Bison Kill Site (25SX115) was visited numerous times during 2006. The Mammoth Site of Hot Springs, Inc. managed the site under special use permit (SUP). The site is being fully protected and preserved. No incidents of vandalism were reported or observed. Numerous new research investigations were conducted on site under the Mammoth Site SUP. Hudson-Meng was open to the public and tours were available. Results of new research were quickly shared with the visiting public.

Heritage 2: To what extent are traditional cultural properties being protected?

With the exception of one possible sacred site that was identified in 2001 there are no known traditional cultural properties on the forest.

Special Interest Areas: To what extent have the special features found Special Interest Areas been conserved or enhanced?

Special orders have been approved and will be implemented in 2007 for no motorized travel in the Red Shirt and Triple Seven areas.

Research Natural Areas: To what extent have the unique research features of Research Natural Areas been conserved or enhanced?

No formal monitoring was completed on the forest in FY 2006

Wilderness: To what extent is the Soldier Creek Wilderness special features and communities of special concern conserved or enhanced?

No formal monitoring was completed on the forest in FY 2006

Recommended for Wilderness: To what extent are the Red Shirt and Indian Creek Recommended for Wilderness special features and communities of special concern conserved or enhanced?

While no formal monitoring was done in 2006 special orders were signed to eliminate motorized travel in the Redshirt area in 2007. District personnel have determined the periods of high use in the Indian Creek areas and will implement periodic patrols for the protection of the area in 2007.

Community Relations 2: What are the effects of National Forest System Management on adjacent communities?

Public Notification: The Forest generated 29 news releases in 2006 which informed local area parties on a variety of subjects related to forest management. The Forest Supervisor, public affairs specialist, rangers, and other staff frequently participated in media interviews and local meetings to share and clarify information related to the Dawes Complex Fires on late July, early August, 2006.

Technical Assistance: Fire personnel conducted basic firefighter training for area mutual aid Volunteer Fire Departments and National Guard units to allow them to meet the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) training certification requirements. Qualified firefighters from area VFD's and the National Guard responded to the Dawes Complex Fires on the Pine Ridge Ranger District in July, 2006.

Grants and Agreements: There were 44 new agreements between the Forest Service and partners in 2006. Examples of agreements include cooperative law enforcement, wildlife habitat improvement, and tree seedling sales and distribution. Agreements also include interagency agreements and state and federal agreements. Total value for 2006 was \$1,010,791 with Forest Service contributions of \$411,097 matched by partner contributions of \$599,694.

Adjacent Communities: Both local and agency contributions are leveraged to provide needed services that enhance the public value of the national forests and grasslands to stakeholders and local communities.

Charles E. Bessey Nursery and Bessey Ranger District employ 16 permanent staff who live and spend resources in local communities. Payments to counties primarily derived from permitted grazing fees of \$1.56 per Animal Unit Month (AUM) totaled \$2,703.94 for Blaine County, NE; \$19,900.99 for Cherry County, NE; and \$20,117.31 for Thomas County, NE. These payments do not include Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funds. Maintenance contracts for roads and facilities, many of which went to local area contractors totaled \$110,390 in 2006.

The Fort Pierre National Grassland continues to be identified by sports writers as a premier location for viewing and hunting prairie grouse. The effects of these attractions ripple through the Fort Pierre and Pierre, South Dakota economy and are the result of carefully managing grassland vegetation to provide habitat for these high interest species. Payments to counties, primarily generated from permitted livestock grazing fees of \$1.73 per AUM on national grasslands in 2006 included \$1804.32 to Jones County; \$5,491.06 to Lyman County; and \$3,227.64 to Stanley County. These payments do not include Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funds. One contract to rehabilitate Sheriff Dam for water storage, wetland habitat, and recreation was valued at \$57,694.00.

The Fall River Ranger District employs 11 permanent staff who, with their families, lives in the Hot Springs area. Payments to counties, primarily from permitted livestock grazing fees of \$1.73 per AUM on national grasslands in 2006 included \$8,456.35 to Fall River County, SD; and \$1969.84 to Custer County, SD. Counties receive 25% of the net receipts generated on national grasslands.

The Pine Ridge Ranger District of the Nebraska National Forest, together with the Supervisor's Office employs 38 permanent staff, who along with their families lives in Chadron and neighboring communities. Forest-wide, salaries account for over \$3.58 million, a significant portion of which is spent in local communities. Payments to counties, primarily generated by permitted livestock grazing fees on both national forest lands and national grasslands totaled \$10,383.13 from national forest receipts, and \$491.13 for Dawes County. Sioux County received

\$2,487.62 from national forest receipts and \$1,880.21 from national grassland receipts. National forest grazing fees for 2006 were \$1.56 per AUM and National Grassland fees were \$1.73 per AUM.

Wall Ranger District employs seven permanent staff who, along with their families, lives in Wall and neighboring communities. The National Grasslands Visitor Center is a focal point for visitors to receive information about the local area and national grasslands across the country as well as tourism attractions in the Black Hills and points west. It is an attractive component of the Wall community. Payments to counties, primarily generated from permitted livestock grazing fees, included in 2006--Pennington County, \$7,305.20 and Jackson County, \$3,857.07.

Miscellaneous Products 1: To what extent is the demand for miscellaneous products being met?

No requests from the public were made for these types of permits and no miscellaneous forest products permits were issued.

Scenery 1: To what extent have scenery management objectives been met?

No formal monitoring was completed on the forest in FY 2006

IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING

T&E: Are actions identified in national recovery plans for threatened and endangered species being implemented where opportunities exist on national grasslands and forests?

The blowout penstemon recovery plan for the Forest Service to plant and monitor plants was followed and monitoring of blowout penstemon transplants continued.

The Wall Ranger District of the Buffalo Gap National Grassland is actively working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Badlands National Park, and other federal, state, tribal and private entities in the recovery of the endangered black-footed ferret as directed in the Black-footed Ferret Recovery Plan.

A land exchange was completed in northeast Fort Pierre National Grassland in support of prairie dog habitat and reducing conflicts between black-tailed prairie dog expansion and adjacent private land owners. This exchange was in an area that had been identified as an area suitable for a black-tailed prairie dog complex that might support black-footed ferret reintroduction.

Administration: Are the action plans identified in the objectives being completed on schedule?

Action plans identified in the objectives have been completed as funding allowed. Action plan implementation will be reviewed and discussed in the Five Year Monitoring Plan scheduled for 2007.

Implementation Monitoring: Have site-specific decisions been made to implement the Land & Resource Management Plan direction?

All current site-specific decisions implement the Land & Resource Management Plan direction

Outputs: Are the projected annual outputs and services being met annually and at anticipated costs?

See the annual performance and accountability report reporting system.

VALIDATION MONITORING

Suggested Stocking Rates: Are the suggested stocking rate guidelines (Appendix I) providing the desired levels of vegetation structure and habitat for management indicator species and species at risk?

A deepening drought occurred across almost all of the units of the Nebraska National Forest. Drought management practices were again in place (livestock went on June 1 or later, less livestock numbers, modified rotations, no-use). Drought guidelines were developed allotment by allotment, forest wide. In addition, numerous range readiness studies and utilization studies were completed forest wide to assist with management decision during the drought. Several areas implemented reductions in livestock numbers for the entire season, and many areas experienced early livestock removals. Actual use by pasture was collected and stored in the I-Web database, Range module, for future analysis.

Visual Obstruction transects were completed across the forest. Visual obstruction reading summaries have not been completed at this time for the entire forest, although initial personal reviews from data collectors indicate that vegetation structure was reduced in many areas. For the Oglala Grazing Association, the following is current vegetation structural condition: 0% low, 84-92% moderate, and 8-16% high. The Forest Plan objective for structural stage is 5-15% in low, 65-85% in moderate, and 10-20% in high structural stage. To implement the Forest Plan approximately 5-15% of existing moderate structure rangeland will need to be managed for low structural stage.

Wildlife: Are oil and gas stipulations effective, inadequate, or excessive in protecting and conserving raptors, prairie grouse, mountain plover, black-footed ferrets, bighorn sheep, and other wildlife species and their habitats?

Surveys of existing oil and gas permits indicate the stipulations developed in the forest plan are adequate.

Wildlife: How do residual cover levels measured in the fall relate to nesting cover levels the following spring?

Currently no fall monitoring is occurring on the forest. All grassland structure monitoring is occurring in the spring.

MIS: Are the selected management indicator species and their response to management activities in habitats on local National Forest System lands adequately representing the management effects on other species in the associated response guilds and is the species membership identified for each response guild reasonably accurate and complete?

The monitoring dataset is currently insufficient to detect long-term population trends in response to management activities on the forest for the Plains sharp-tailed grouse, greater prairie chicken and sage grouse.

The pygmy nuthatch is a new MIS and the dataset is currently insufficient to detect long-term population trends in response to management activities.

Monitoring of the black-tailed prairie dog through 2006 indicates that population trends were in a stable to upward trend (acres) compared to past years data (excluding boundary management activities). Management direction in 2005 called for treatment of some colonies along borders between private/public lands, and resulted in a reduction in occupied acres. It is believed that these MIS adequately represent management effects on other species in the associated response guilds.

Evaluation

A priority for early 2007 will be to establish a Monitoring Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) as outlined in the introduction section of the LRMP Chapter 4. The team will be responsible for managing the collection and storage of data as well as working with cooperators to aid in data collection. A key responsibility will be to work with cooperators to evaluate the data and determine if, and to what degree, the monitoring questions are being answered. Finally, the team will produce and distribute the annual monitoring report.

Project level decisions to implement the LRMP are now being initiated across all the units that comprise the Nebraska National Forest. The five year mid-point review of the plan will be FY 2007, and it should be able to start the evaluation of the collected data in earnest.

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Appendix A

Monitoring Driver	Monitoring Question	NNF Unit	Reporting Frequency	Monitoring Completed in 2006	Evaluation
LRMP Goal 1.a Objective 2, 3	Riparian 1: To what extent are perennial streams in proper functioning condition and riparian areas and wooded draws regenerating?	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Pine Ridge RD	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Pine Ridge RD (Oglala NG)	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Wall RD	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	
LRMP Goal 1.a Objective 1	Soil 1: To what extent have soils eroded or disturbed by Forest Service management or permitted activities been restored?	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD	Five Years	Soil stability tests were conducted on approximately 6 different sites in the Edgemont area	Data is baseline, with no formal evaluation planned for several years.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed. However, soil erosion is occurring along many of the riparian areas and some uplands due to off road travel and/or non-maintained roads.	Areas of soil erosion and associated resources concern will be addressed in the Travel Management NEPA document.
		Wall RD	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed by the Forest Service. The USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service and South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (SD DENR) continued their long-term study of the Upper Bad River Watershed Project. Field work is essentially complete and waiting on completion report. Future study in same watershed proposed by SDSU measuring the frequency and distribution of cow patties near the creeks. SD DENR also set up Conata Basin Watershed Assessment Project to document total suspended solids, fecal coliform & E. coli bacteria contributions from control non-impacted watersheds and non-grazed prairie dog only watersheds inside BNP and cattle only watersheds within Conata Basin. Field data collected in 2006, lab data is being analyzed and Final Report pending.	

LRMP Goal 1.a Objective 1	Watershed 1: To what extent has water quality condition on watersheds containing National Forest System lands been restored, maintained or improved?	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	Grazing systems and cattle stocking since 2001 has seemed to have maintained moderately good water quality.
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Wall RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed by the Forest Service. The USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service and South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources continued their long-term study of the Upper Bad River Watershed Project. Field work is essentially complete and waiting on completion report. Future study in same watershed proposed by SDSU measuring the frequency and distribution of cow patties near the creeks.	
LRMP Goal 1.a Objective 1	Watershed 2: To what extent have water bodies on National Forest System lands that have been degraded by Forest Service permitted or management actions been restored?	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	Cattle rotation systems have improved some shore-line quality on some ponds. Others have shorelines torn up by cattle hooves.
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Wall RD	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	
LRMP Goal 1.a Objective 4	Watershed 3: To what extent have in stream flows been assured to provide adequate water for fisheries and other riverine flora and fauna in streams and rivers with high resource values?	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	

		Wall RD	Five Years	No formal monitoring completed.	
LRMP Goal 1.a Objective 5	Watershed 4: To what extent have surface water, sub-surface flows, and aquifers been protected from contamination from abandoned wells?	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Annually	Two wells were decommissioned on the Bessey District.	
		Fall River RD	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	There are no known abandoned wells contaminating sub-surface water.
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Wall RD	Annually	No new abandoned wells were found or inventoried into the NRIS WUTS database.	
Legal: 36 CFR 219.19(a)(6); 36 CFR 219.20; 36 CFR 219.27(5 and 6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 2 & 6	MIS 1: What is the potential habitat capability for each management indicator species?	Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie	Ten years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Bessey/ SamuelR. McKelvie	Ten years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Ten years	Visual obstruction readings in association with plains sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chicken surveys were completed on the Samuel R. McKelvie.	Thirty transects in the uplands and thirty transects in the lowlands for the plains sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chicken covered 16,032 acres of habitat.
		Fall River RD	Ten years	Plains sharp-tailed grouse were completed several years ago.	Results and documentation maintained in official project files in Supervisor's Office
		Fall River RD	Ten years	Black-tailed prairie dog were completed several years ago	Results and documentation maintained in official project files in Supervisor's Office
		Fall River RD	Ten years	The Greater Sage Grouse habitat map was completed in 2005.	Sage grouse report was completed and is on file at the district office and at the Supervisors Office.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Ten years	To monitor habitat for MIS greater prairie chicken, a 10% random survey of residual grass visual obstruction readings (VORs) was completed. The potential of the grassland to produce grass cover was also monitored in pastures rested from grazing for two years.	The mean spring VOR for residual cover for the entire grassland was about 2.48", and the potential VOR was 3.5". Since 2000, precipitation and temperatures during the grouse nesting and brood-rearing season have been variable, with a tendency to be hot and dry. Climatic conditions have not always been favorable for grouse reproduction. Reductions in annual cattle grazing lately have helped to maintain some grouse nesting and brood-rearing cover.

		Ft. Pierre NG	Ten years	To monitor habitat for MIS sharp-tailed grouse, a 10% random survey of residual grass visual obstruction readings (VORs) was completed. The potential of the grassland to produce grass cover was also monitored in pastures rested from grazing for two years.	The mean spring VOR for residual cover of the entire grassland was about 2.48", and the potential VOR was 3.5". Since 2000, precipitation and temperatures during the grouse nesting and brood-rearing season have been variable, and have tended to be dry and hot. They have not always been favorable for grouse nesting and brood-rearing. Temporary reductions in annual cattle grazing have helped to maintain at least minimal habitat for prairie grouse.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Ten years	MIS black-tailed prairie dog potential habitat capability was not monitored in FY2006.	Dry conditions since 2000 have produced lower vegetation structure than that occurring the previous decade. This has produced higher potential habitat for prairie dogs. It should be noted that tolerance of private landowners to encroachment from adjacent prairie dog colonies is part of the potential for growth of the colonies.
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Ten years	Visual obstruction readings in association with plains sharp-tailed grouse surveys were completed in the spring of 2006.	VISUAL OBSTRUCTION READINGS were taken at 58 random transects across the District. Habitat suitability evaluations for this area were documented in the Northern Great Plains EIS (Table 3-132) and in the official project files at the District Office.
		Wall RD	Ten years	No formal monitoring completed.	
Legal: 36 CFR 219.19(a)(6); 36 CFR 219.20; 36 CFR 219.27(5 and 6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 2 & 6	MIS 2: What is the current habitat suitability for each management indicator species?	Bessey/ Samuel R. McKelvie	Ten years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD	Five years	Habitat suitability evaluations for plains sharp-tailed grouse were conducted across the Southeast and Northeast Geographic Areas and documented.	100 % of the visual obstruction reading transects have been completed. Precipitation was below normal and VOR readings are very low across the district
			Five years	A Greater Sage Grouse study was completed in2004.	The Greater Sage Grouse report was completed and is on file at the District Office and at the Supervisors office.
		Fall River RD	Five years	An inventory of Black-tailed Prairie Dog towns was completed in 2006. Only colonies sheduled for control in the Boundary Management Area were GPS'ed	Approximately 3,500 acres of prairie dogs were controlled in the boundary management area. Although undocumented it is believed that plague is in the colonies near Smithwick and nort of Highway 18 West of Edgemont.

		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	To monitor habitat for MIS greater prairie chicken, a 10% random survey of residual grass visual obstruction readings (VORs) was completed. The potential of the grassland to produce grass cover was also monitored in pastures rested from grazing for two years.	Nesting and brood-rearing cover is thought to be the limiting life requisite for prairie chickens. Local habitat suitability for this can be determined by establishing a graph line between the minimum visual obstruction reading for nesting cover (2.0") and the current potential cover, which was 3.5" . The habitat suitability for a mean VOR of 2.48" across the grassland is about .31, or 31% of potential.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	Black-tailed prairie colony acres were surveyed with a GPS instrument.	About 2,664 acres of FPNG were occupied by prairie dog towns.
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No formal monitoring on Pygmy Nuthatch habitat on the Pine Ridge was completed.	
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Habitat suitability evaluations for plains sharp-tailed grouse across the entire district were completed and documented. Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse monitoring consisted of 18,344 acres being surveyed on the entire district. Visual Obstruction Readings were recorded for the District in 2006 for the Oglala and Pine Ridge Geographic Areas to support MIS sharp-tailed grouse monitoring.	Eleven active display ground sites were identified. Visual observation readings were taken at 33 random transects across the District. Past habitat suitability evaluations for this area are documented in the Northern Great Plains EIS (Table 3-132) and in the official project files at the District Office. Additional years of monitoring are needed to establish current habitat suitability levels for plains sharp-tailed grouse.
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Black-tailed Prairie Dog (ONG) = The Oglala NG was inventoried for acres of prairie dogs colonies.	Approximately 2,132 acres of prairie dog colonies were recorded using GPS. As a result of a NEPA decision in August 2005, management activities consisted of rodenticide use along boundaries with private lands. A total of approximately 1,027 acres of prairie dog colonies were treated in 2006. These treated acres are part of the total 2,132 acres.
		Wall RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
Legal: 36 CFR 219.19(a)(6); 36 CFR 219.20; 36 CFR 219.27(5 and 6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 2 & 6	MIS 3: What are the long-term population trends for each management indicator species and the relationships between long-term population trends and the effects of management activities on habitats on NFS lands?	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	Display ground surveys for plains sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chicken surveys were completed on the Samuel R. McKelvie.	Fifty-six male greater prairie chickens were counted on the leks.
		Fall River RD	Five years	Two monitoring units were established to monitor long term population trends of plains sharp-tailed grouse. One 9,000 acre unit in the Southeast Geographic Area and a 10,000 acre unit in the Northeast Geographic Area. The areas were surveyed and all grouse leks recorded.	The monitoring dataset is currently insufficient to detect long-term population trends in response to management activities. Due to the drought conditions of the last few years, the preliminary indication are that numbers are decreasing.

		Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring on Black-tailed Prairie Dog habitat was completed.	Approximately 3,500 acres of prairie dogs were controlled in the boundary management area. Although undocumented it is believed that plague is in the colonies near Smithwick and north of Highway 18 West of Edgemont.
		Fall River RD	Five years	Monitoring of the Greater Sage Grouse display grounds was completed.	Sage grouse lek surveys were conducted in the 3.64 Special Plant and Wildlife Area: Sage Grouse and one lek was located 5 males and 3 females..
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	As an index of the species' population, male greater prairie chickens have been counted annually on their courtship display grounds in the southeast central grassland. This was continued in spring 2006.	The number of male prairie chickens was six percent lower than it had been the previous spring. The grassland has been in a drought cycle since 2000. This has been somewhat unfavorable to grouse reproduction. Even at the current level, the number of male prairie chickens is much higher than it was after the very dry years of the 1980's. More nesting and brood-rearing cover due to lower cattle stocking is a likely factor responsible for that.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	As an index of the species' population, sharp-tailed grouse have been counted annually on their courtship display grounds in the southeast central grassland. This was continued in spring 2006.	The number of male sharp-tailed grouse was about 63% lower than it was the previous year. The exact reason for this is unknown. Some factor other than habitat may be a factor. The long-term trend of this species needs to be taken into consideration.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	Black-tailed Prairie Dog colonies were inventoried.	The GPS survey showed that black-tailed prairie dog colonies covered about 2,664 acres on FPNG. In 1988, prairie dog colonies occupied about 365 acres. The population grew through the 1990's, then declined a bit as good precipitation resulted in tall, dense grass cover. But since 2000, the occasional drought conditions have reduced cover and allowed the rodents to expand.
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Display ground surveys for sharp-tailed grouse were conducted across the entire district.	The monitoring dataset is currently insufficient to detect long-term population trends in response to management activities.
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No formal monitoring on Pygmy Nuthatch habitat on the Pine Ridge was completed.	The monitoring dataset is currently insufficient to detect long-term population trends for the sharp-tailed grouse and pygmy nuthatch in response to management activities.
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Display ground surveys for sharp-tailed grouse were conducted across the entire district.	The monitoring dataset is currently insufficient to detect long-term population trends in response to management activities.

		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Black-tailed Prairie Dog (ONG) = The Oglala NG was inventoried for acres of prairie dogs colonies	Approximately 2,132 acres of prairie dog colonies were recorded using GPS. As a result of a NEPA decision in August 2005, management activities consisted of rodenticide use along boundaries with private lands. A total of approximately 1,027 acres of prairie dog colonies were treated in 2006. These treated acres are part of the total 2,132 acres. Acreages within the interior tend to indicate that population trends are stable to increasing when not including boundary management activities.
		Wall RD	Five years	No grouse lek surveys were conducted in 2006.	Systematic grouse lek surveys occurred from 2000 to 2004 across the district. Collectively, 156,436 acres have been surveyed on the district, wherein 28 leks have been identified. Over 100,000 acres have yet to be surveyed. Five-year summary report of grouse lek surveys available on district. Data set insufficient for evaluation of long-term population trend.
		Wall RD	Five years	Only black-tailed prairie dog colonies identified for treatment with rodenticide in the Boundary Management Zone were monitored	The breakdown of treated colonies for 2007 is as follows: Wall North GA = 23 colonies for a total of 844 acres, Wall SW GA = 42 colonies for a total of 5,947 acres, and Wall SE GA = 31 colonies for a total of 1,392 acres. Most colonies treated outside the Connate Basin are showing very low prairie dog activity and no growth, especially if the entire colony was treated as opposed to a portion of the colony. In the Conata Basin, those colonies treated within the Boundary Management Zone are still expanding because only a portion of the colony was treated. Prairie dogs within the same colony but outside the treatment zone are moving into the treated sites and even expanding the overall size of the colony.
USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 1, 2, 4 & 7	T&E 1: To what extent are NFS lands and their management contributing to the recovery and viability of black-footed ferrets?	Fall River RD	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	Black-footed ferrets have not been reintroduced in the District's 3.63 Management Area in Smithwick. Although undocumented it is believed that plague is in the colonies near Smithwick and prairie dog densities appear to be lower.
		Wall RD	Annually	Systematic monitoring, live-trapping and micro-chipping of the black-footed ferret in the Conata Basin 3.63 Management Area was completed.	Currently, black-footed ferret populations have been established on three prairie dog complexes scattered across Conata Basin with a wild, free-roaming population of over 200 ferrets. The minimum population estimate for 2006 was 220 animals (123 kits and 97 adults). This ferret population has contributed greatly to the species recovery and also serves as a donor site to other ferret reintroduction sites in the nation.

USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 1, 2, 4 & 7	T&E 2: To what extent are NFS lands and their management contributing to the recovery and viability of blowout penstemon?	Bessey/ Samuel R. McKelvie	Annually	All of the plantings were monitored according to the recovery plan.	Part of the populations were in good shape and some have been identified needing additional plantings. The monitoring dataset is currently insufficient to detect long-term population trends in response to management activities.
USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 1, 2, 4 & 7	T&E 3: To what extent are NFS lands and their management contributing to the recovery and viability of bald eagle?	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	No observations or incidental sightings were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Fall River RD	Annually	Systematic monitoring completed along Cheyenne River	No known nesting attempts. 3 mature bald eagles were observed
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	No observations or incidental sightings were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Wall RD	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	Incidental sightings were observed in the Conata Basin Area from late November into early spring of 07.
USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 1, 2, 4 & 7	T&E 4: To what extent are NFS lands and their management contributing to the recovery and viability of the American burying beetle?	Bessey/ Samuel R. McKelvie	Annually	An Environmental assessment was completed for the Bessey II Hazardous Fuels project. Consultation with USFWS and NGPC occurred.	Specific beetle survey and monitoring protocols were developed and will be implemented when ground disturbing activities require such actions.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act; USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 1, 2, 4 and 7	T&E 5: To what extent are NFS lands and their management contributing to the recovery and viability of whooping crane?	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	No observations or incidental sightings were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Fall River RD	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.

		Ft. Pierre NG	Annually	No formal monitoring was done in FY2006.	Whooping cranes rarely rest on FPNG ponds during migration. They have not been reported on the ground on FPNG since 1983. Occasionally, they are sighted while migrating overhead, but no records came to light in 2006. The grassland provides occasional resting sites during migration.
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	No observations or incidental sightings were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Wall RD	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	No incidental sightings of the species were recorded.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act; USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 1, 2, 4 & 7	T&E 6: To What Extent are NFS Lands and Their Management Contributing to the Recovery and Viability of Mountain Plover?	Fall River RD	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	No observations or incidental sightings were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Wall RD	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	No incidental sightings of the species were recorded.
USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(5); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, & 9	T&E 7: Does Ute ladies' tresses or potential habitat for the species occur on the NFS lands within the planning area?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	No observations or incidental sightings were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act; USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(5 & 6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objective 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 & 9	Viability 1: To what extent are National Forest System Lands and their management contributing to the viability of sensitive plant and animal species that are generally found in grassland and sagebrush habitats?	Bessey/ Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	Visual obstruction readings in association with plains sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chicken surveys were completed on the Samuel R. McKelvie.	Thirty transects in the uplands and thirty transects in the lowlands for the plains sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chicken covered 16,032 acres of habitat.

		Fall River RD	Five years	Six breeding bird survey routes were conducted on the district by a Forest Service wildlife biologist in 2005.	Data was insufficient to draw monitoring conclusions but will be used to help establish a baseline for future monitoring results. Dataset does provide some distribution information of sensitive grassland/shrub land bird species.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	There is no big sage on FPNG, and little silver sage. However, the grassland is a major habitat for species that inhabit grass. Other than the three MIS, only a survey for butterflies and incidental observations of sensitive species were made.	Sensitive grassland species that the grassland provides habitat for include swift fox, grasshopper sparrow, short-eared owl, ferruginous hawks, chestnut-collared longspur, northern harrier, American peregrine falcon, loggerhead shrike, long-billed curlew and regal fritillary butterfly. The butterfly survey failed to find the Otoe skipper. The national grassland maintains a major block of mixed-grass prairie and prevents it from being plowed, which has been the fate of many prairies in central South Dakota.
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Wall RD	Five years	The WRD and nearby private land serves as the primary habitat for the recently introduced swift fox. The species was reintroduced by Badlands National Park in 2004, with subsequent releases in 2005 and 2006.	As of December 2006, the estimated population size was 55 adults that produced 15 litters for a total of 55 pups. The WRD serves as excellent habitat for the species because of the large expanses of shortgrass prairie and grazing that keeps vegetative structure low - a desirable habitat component for the species.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act; USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(5 & 6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objective 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 & 9	Viability 2: To what extent are National Forest System Lands and their management contributing to the viability of sensitive plant and animal species that are generally found in riparian and wetland habitats?	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD	Five years	Systematic monitoring was completed along Cheyenne River. No monitoring completed on wetlands.	Yellow-billed cuckoo and loggerhead shrikes were observed. These sightings were insufficient to draw monitoring conclusions but will be used to help establish a baseline for future monitoring results.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring of wetland wildlife was done in FY2006. However, incidental sightings of these species were recorded.	Sensitive wetland species that the grassland provides habitat for are the American bittern, black tern, and northern leopard frog. Construction of stock-watering ponds on the grassland has produced a lot of permanent leopard frog habitat. Managed grazing systems have helped to maintain water quality.
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Wall RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	No incidental sightings were recorded.

USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(5 & 6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objectives 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 & 9	Viability 3: To what extent are National Forest System Lands and their management contributing to the viability of sensitive plant and animal species that are found in aquatic habitats?	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	No observations or incidental sightings were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal surveys were done in FY2006.	No purely aquatic sensitive species are known to exist on FPNG.
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	No observations or incidental sighting were recorded during field visits to these habitats.
		Wall RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	No incidental sightings were recorded.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act; USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(5 & 6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objective 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 & 9	Viability 4: To what extent are National Forest System Lands and their management contributing to the viability of sensitive plant and animal species that are generally found in forested habitats?	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD	Five years	Systematic monitoring was completed along Cheyenne River. No monitoring completed on wetlands.	Yellow-billed cuckoo and loggerhead shrikes were observed. These sightings were insufficient to draw monitoring conclusions but will be used to help establish a baseline for future monitoring results.
		Fall River RD	Five years	No monitoring completed on wetlands.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal surveys were done in FY2006.	The yellow-billed cuckoo is a sensitive species found in the vicinity of FPNG, but none are recorded from the grassland. It would inhabit dense deciduous tree and shrub thickets. The bird is especially fond of eating tent caterpillars.
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	Occasional observations or incidental sightings of sensitive species have been recorded during field visits to these habitats in 2005. These sightings were insufficient to draw monitoring conclusions but will be used to help establish a baseline for future monitoring results.
		Wall RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	No incidental sightings were recorded.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act;	Viability 5: To what extent are National	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	

USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(6); LRMP Goal 1.b Objective 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 & 9	Forest System Lands and their management contributing to the viability of sensitive animal species that are heavily dependent on prairie dog colony habitat?				
		Fall River RD	Five years	An inventory of Black-tailed Prairie Dog towns was completed in 2006. Only colonies sheduled for control in the Boundary Management Area were GPS'ed	Approximately 3,500 acres of prairie dogs were controlled in the boundary management area. Although undocumented it is believed that plague is in the colonies near Smithwick and nort of Highway 18 West of Edgemont.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	Prairie dog colonies were surveyed with a GPS unit, as described above. Incident sighting of burrowing owls were recorded.	Private landowners consider prairie dogs pests and poison them. The grassland provides an area where prairie dog colonies can be maintained, providing habitat for TES species.
		Wall RD	Five years	Working with the USF&WS on plague monitoring.	The status of plague in the area has not changed since 2005. Plague activity is within 20 miles of the Conata Basin and Badlands National Park reported a sero-positive coyote on the edge of Conata Basin. Windshield surveys by the USF&WS have found no evidence of plague on the District. Approximately 1,650 acres (2 colonies in the Sage Creek Area) were dusted totaling 93,867 burrows.
		Wall RD	Five years	Only black-tailed prairie dog colonies identified for treatment with rodenticide in the Boundary Management Zone were monitored in regards to acreage expansion. Prairie dog densities were evaluated in the Conata Basin and Heck Table Area. Additionally, 17 prairie dog colonies were surveyed as part of a larger burrowing owl research project	Prairie dog acreages are on an upward trend in the Conata Basin, even with Boundary Zone Management. A mean density of 12.0 prairie dogs per acre was estimated in the Conata Basin and Heck Table area. There were a total of 98 burrowing owl nests found in the 17 prairie dog colonies surveyed. This resulted in 100% occupancy of surveyed colonies and nests fledged on average 3.5 chicks. The prairie dog acreages on the WRD, especially in Conata Basin, have contributed to the viability of the burrowing owl and possibly the swift fox.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act; USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-4; 36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(5 & 6); LRMP Goal	Viability 6: To what extent are National Forest System Lands and their manage -ment contributing to the viability of sensitive plant and animal species that are generally found	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	The planted blowout penstemon was monitored according to the recovery plan.	The data was insufficient to draw monitoring conclusions but will be used to help establish a baseline for future population surveys.

1.b Objective 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 & 9	in special habitats like caves, cliffs, buttes, blowouts, and barren habitats?				
		Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring was completed.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No surveys were attempted.	FPNG does not have the habitats mentioned.
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	
		Wall RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	No incidental sightings were recorded.
36 CFR 219.19 and 219.27(6); LRMP Goal 1.b	Viability 7: To what extent have cooperative agreements and the landownership adjustment program been effective in reducing private land conflicts involving prairie dogs and enhancing long-term opportunities for development of prairie dog colony complexes in the priority National Grassland areas.	Fall River RD	Five years	No land exchange activities have been completed involving prairie dog management objectives.	
		Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No land exchange activities have been completed involving prairie dog management objectives.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No land exchange activities have been completed involving prairie dog management objectives.	Two-hundred seventy-two acres of NFS land was exchanged for 240 acres of private land in the northeast grassland. This will allow a nearby prairie dog town to expand somewhat over what it could have expanded without the land exchange.
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No land exchange activities have been completed involving prairie dog management objectives.	
		Wall RD	Five years	No land exchange activities have been completed involving prairie dog management objectives.	
36 CFR 219.20; LRMP Management Areas 3.58 & 3.51	Wildlife 1: Is habitat effectiveness on designated big game range being maintained or enhanced?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Received final report for the floristic survey.	One occurrence of Barr Milkvetch and five occurrences of Dakota Wild-Buckwheat were recorded on the WRD
Legal 36 CFR 219.7(f); LRMP Goal 1.c	Community Relations 1: To what extent are noxious weeds, invasive	Bessey/ Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	

Objective 5, LRMP Goal 4.b Public & Organizational Relations Objective 2	species, and animal damage spreading from National Forest System lands to other ownerships or from lands managed by other government agencies to National Forest System lands?				
		Fall River RD	Five Years	South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks conducted limited predator control on the national grasslands where predation was occurring on adjoining lands.	Forest Service personnel coordinated with the state to help ensure appropriate and effective responses to livestock producer complaints regarding predator damage.
		Fall River RD	Five Years	Eight plots were read on the Hardpan allotment. Five provide two year post-burn data as required in the burn plan. Three provide pre-burn data for a planned broadcast burn. 1) Three plots are in the Cheyenne River valley, five are on upland areas dominated by Western Wheat grass. 2) Of these five, one was fenced out from grazing immediately after the burn; one is in an area that was not burned but continued to be grazed, and three were both burned and grazed. B.	No analysis of the data collected occurred.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Noxious weeds continue to encroach to and from private and state-owned land from and to NFS lands primarily along wildlife/livestock travel routes, streams, and by wind-blown seeds. Total actual acres of noxious weed spread from and to other ownerships have not been determined. In addition, the 2006 Dawes and Sioux County fires have increased the likelihood of weed encroachment to and from private and state-owned lands. Dawes County and Sioux County both received grant funding (total \$37311) through the Nebraska State and Private Forestry and Forest Service to control noxious weeds on private lands adjacent to federal lands.	Noxious weed infestations are mapped on 1:24000 scale maps annually as well all herbicide treatment data. A total of 406 acres were treated on the Pine Ridge District. All records are on file at the District Office.
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Prairie dog colony expansion on the Oglala National Grasslands was not monitored in 2005. Monitoring in 2006 indicates that the acres of prairie dog colonies decreased 4% from 2004 and is currently 2132 acres. Prairie dog colony expansion from NFS lands to adjacent private lands is occurring on some of the colonies.	A report can be found at the Pine Ridge Ranger District.
		Wall RD	Five years	No complaints about predators from livestock producers related to NFS administered lands.	

		Wall RD	Five years	Noxious weeds, especially Canada thistle, have been spreading from the Badlands National Park to National Grasslands and adjoining private lands. Both BNP and FS continue monitoring spread of Canada thistle. Other noxious weeds adjacent to private land include Russian knapweed, and hoary cress. Sickleweed (Falcaria vulgaris) was discovered in the Wall North GA in August, 2006, and on adjacent farmland to the north. Too late in season to spray, therefore plants were clipped, bagged and incinerated. Coordinated with Pennington Co. Weed & Pest concerning sickleweed infestation location and control on adjacent private land. Plan to aggressively spray sickleweed in 2007.	Forest Service contined to control noxious weeds adjacent to other Federal and private lands.Treatment estimated to be 90% effective where herbicide applied. Sickleweed plants clipped, bagged & incinerated.
		Wall RD	Five years	Prairie dog acres (both BMZ & interior) increased due to continuing drought conditions. Only black-tailed prairie dog colonies identified for treatment with rodenticide in the Boundary Management Zone were monitored. Five miles of two-strand electric fence installed along the half-mile Boundary Management Zone (BMZ) in the Conata West and Lower Sage Creek allotments (MA 3.63) to prevent cattle from grazing in the BMZ. Due to drought conditions and lack of vegetative growth, no difference in vegetation observed between the ungrazed and grazed areas.	The breakdown of treated colonies for 2006 is as follows: Wall North GA = 23 colonies for a total of 844 acres, Wall SW GA = 42 colonies for a total of 5,947 acres, and Wall SE GA = 31 colonies for a total of 1,392 acres. Most colonies treated outside the Conata Basin are showing very low prairie dog activity and no growth, especially if the entire colony was treated as opposed to a portion of the colony. In the Conata Basin, those colonies treated within the Boundary Management Zone are still expanding because only a portion of the colony was treated. Prairie dogs within the same colony but outside the treatment zone are moving into the treated sites and even expanding the overall size of the colony.
Legal 36 CFR 219.12(k)5(iv); LRMP Goal 1c Objective 5	Damage Control 1: To what extent are destructive insect and disease outbreaks prevented following management activities? (See also Community 1)	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No reports were received from Forest Health Protection in 2006, but mortality is continuing to result from the hail storms on the Bessey Ranger District. No monitoring was done on the S.R. McKelvie NF	
		Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	No destructive insect or disease outbreaks were observed during field visits.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	The Spotted-tail wildfire burned through most of the Ips - Diplodia monitoring plots established by Forest Health Protection in the King's Canyon area. The wildfire could result in a buildup of pine engraver beetles that could spread to adjacent unburned stands or could infest remaining fire stressed trees, resulting in additional mortality.	Additional post-fire tree mortality can be expected within the next 1 to 3 years.

		Wall RD	5yr	Monitoring for sylvatic plague using consistent weekly windshield suveys of prairie dog activity within MA 3.63 were conducted by US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Wildlife Biologist stationed at Wall RD. Occasional opportunistic field reports of prairie dog colony activities also provided by Wall RD Range Tech. Sylvatic plague is known to be lethal to prairie dog & black-footed ferret. APHIS sampled coyotes within Conata & Scenic Basin areas, tested for plague titers and categorized ectoparasites including fleas, August 2006. Burrow swabbing for plague surveillnce and a flea study was conducted by Prairie Wildlife Research, UNebraska-Lincoln, & USFWS.Results pending	No destructive disease outbreaks were observed during field visits by USFWS WL Biol. stationed at Wall RD. The presence of sylvatic plague was not detected within the Conata Basin 3.63 ferret habitat area. As a prophylactic measure, USFWS acted as the lead agency, in application of a flea-killing insecticide (DeltaDust) to burrow entrances, to inhibit the spread of sylvatic plague should this disease occur within the 3.63 ferret habitat area in the future. DeltaDust was applied to approx. 93,000 prairie dog burrow entrances on 1,650 acres of prairie dog colonies. Sylvatic plague is known to occur on prairie dog colonies approximately 30 miles south of Conata Basin.
LRMP Goal 1.c Objective 5, LRMP Goal 4.b Public & Organizational Relations Objectives 2	Damage Control 2: To what extent are noxious weeds, invasive species, and animal damage expanding or being reduced?	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	
		Fall River RD	Five years	Monitoring and inventory of 1083 acres of sprayed areas was completed. (MLE)	Comparison summaries of past and recent inventories have not been completed. 2005 windshield surveys of continually sprayed infestations of canada thistle indicate patches are either being eradicated or experiencing significant reductions in density.
		Fall River RD	Five years	Data was collected from 18 plots in the Cheyenne River drainage.	Analysis of the data has not been completed
		Fall River RD	Five years	Prairie dogs were controlled in the Boundary Management Zones. 2844 acres in the Northeast Geographical area, 378 acres in the West Geographical area, and 311 acres in the Southeast Geographical area.	Ocular evaluation of post-treatment activity compared to no-treatment activity from a near-by prairie dog colony.(MLE)
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Noxious weed mapping and treatment in 2006 resulted in 406 acres of noxious weeds treated on the Oglala Geographic Area and Pine Ridge Geographic Area combined. The District Noxious Weed Management Coordinator worked with Dawes, Sioux, Blaine, Thomas and Cherry County Weed Superintendents who combined, received \$51281 in State and Private Forestry Grants.	A report can be found at the Pine Ridge Ranger District.
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Prairie dog colony expansion on the Oglala National Grassland was monitored in 2006 and indicates that of the 1027 acres treated in October was more than 90% effective.	Prairie dog colony expansion from NFS lands to adjacent private lands is occurring on some of the colonies. A report can be found at the District Office

		Wall RD	5yr	Noxious weeds mapped and treated with herbicide: Canada thistle - 229 acres; hoary cress - 36 acres; Russian knapweed - 29 acres; salt cedar - 8 acres. First known occurrence of sickleweed (Falcaria vulgaris) mapped, clipped, bagged and incinerated. Cumulatively, known scattered patches of sickleweed equal approx. 1-2 acres.	Treatment of these noxious weeds estimated at 90% effective for areas mapped and treated. Anticipate additional areas will need treatment due to continued prolonged drought conditions, including hot dry winds throughout July 2006, which enhanced noxious weed seed dispersal. Also due to opportunistic nature of noxious weeds following drought.
LRMP Goal 1.c Objective 1; LRMP Goal 2.c Wildlife, Fish, & Plant Use Objective 2	Vegetation 1: To what extent are rangeland vegetation structure objectives being met?	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	
		Fall River RD	Five years	194 Visual Obstruction transects were completed district wide.	A deepening drought was occurring across all of the Fall River District, and reduced livestock numbers occurred in the Northeast and West Geographical areas, with all areas of the district experiencing early livestock removals. Visual obstruction reading summaries have not been completed at this time, although initial personal reviews from data collectors indicate that vegetation structure was reduced.
		Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	
		Fall River RD	Five years	Numerous range readiness studies and utilization studies were completed district wide to assist w/ management decision during the drought. Drought guidelines were developed allotment by allotment, district wide. Actual use by pasture was collected and stored in the I-Web database, Range module, for future analysis.	No analysis of the data has occurred
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Drought management practices were again in place (livestock went on June 1 or later, less livestock numbers, modified rotations, no-use). Utilization levels and drought monitoring was done on 90% of the allotments.	The rangeland vegetation responded favorably to management.
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	For the OGA (94,176 acres), the following is current vegetation structural condition: 0% low, 84-92% moderate, and 8-16% high. The Forest Plan objective for structural stage is 5-15% in low, 65-85% in moderate, and 10-20% in high structural stage. To implement the Forest Plan approximately 5-15% of existing moderate structure rangeland will need to be managed for low structural stage.	
		Wall RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
LRMP Goal 1.c Objective 1; LRMP Goal 2.c	Vegetation 2: To what extent are rangeland vegetation composition	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	

Wildlife, Fish, & Plant Use Objective 2	objectives being met?				
		Fall River RD	Five years	6 Range analysis transects completed in the West Geographical area in preparation for allotment management planning.	Summaries of rangeland vegetation composition are completed during the allotment management planning process. The West Geographical area planning process is expected to occur in 2007-2008.
		Fall River RD	Five years	In FY2006, SO/District personnel re-read 18 of 20 long-term monitoring plots that were established in the Cheyenne River drainage in 2002.	Data from these plots indicate vegetation composition objectives are being met in the Gamet allotment (12 plots) and, to a lesser degree on the Hardpan allotment.
		Fall River RD	Five years	Numerous range readiness studies and utilization studies were completed district wide to assist w/ management decision during the drought. Drought guidelines were developed allotment by allotment, district wide. Actual use by pasture was collected and stored in the I-Web database, Range module, for future analysis.	No analysis of the data has occurred
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed	
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	In 2006, 45 pastures on the Oglala National Grasslands were analyzed to determine the current vegetative community according to the Ecological Site Descriptions and the transitional pathways that would lead to historic climax plant community.	A report can be found at the Pine Ridge Ranger District.
		Wall RD	5yr	No formal monitoring completed.	
LRMP Goal 1.c Objective 1; LRMP Goal 2.c Wildlife, Fish, & Plant Use Objective 2	Vegetation 3: To what extent are desired vegetation conditions in forested areas being met?	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	Approximately 1529 ac out of 10549 ac (14%) of pine (all species combined) have been thinned to begin moving toward more open park-like conditions and to improve long-term stand health; thinning also removed eastern redcedar (ERC) where it was encroaching into pine stands. About 867 out of 2282 ac (38%) of ERC blocks have been thinned. Encroaching ERC has been cut out of about 2797ac (19%) of the native grassland areas within the Bessey plantation Special Interest Area. The two long-term plots in ponderosa were partially burned in the 4-Corners fire in January of 2006. Immediately after the fire, data was gathered from both sites that included char height, scorch height, and fuel loading. A complete data set was gathered at the end of July, but has not yet been fully analyzed.	Moving toward desired conditions identified in the Forest Plan. Data from this year has not yet been analyzed.
		Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	No formal designated forested areas, wooded draws excluded, exist on the Fall River Ranger District.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	

		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Beyond contract administration, no formal monitoring has been completed on mechanical treatment units. All units planned for mechanical thinning (1542 acres) under the Chadron Creek Fuels Reduction Project will be completed in 2007. Approximately 104 of the recently thinned acres burned in the Spotted-Tail wildfire (July 2006). Based on post-fire aerial photography & some ground truthing, tree mortality following the Spotted-Tail & Robert's Tract fires was 100% in high severity burn areas. Tree mortality was 90-100% in the moderate severity burn areas in the Spotted-Tail fire and more variable and patchier in the Robert's Tract fire (60-70%). The fires moved many pine stands from a mature structural stage to grass/forb stage. Reforestation will be needed to re-establish pine in some areas where all seed sources have been eliminated.	Dawes County Fire Complex Rapid Assessment is on file at the District and Supervisor's Offices. Continue to monitor tree mortality into 2007 & 2008.
		Wall RD	5yr	No formal monitoring completed.	
LRMP Goal 1.c Objective 1; LRMP Goal 2.c Wildlife, Fish, & Plant Use Objective 2	Vegetation 4: To what extent are desired vegetation conditions in wetlands being met?	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Wall RD	5yr	No formal monitoring completed.	
LRMP Goal 2.a Objective 1, 7	Recreation 1: To what extent are trails managed to meet regional standards and to minimize conflicts among users.	Bessey/ Samuel R. McKelvie	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	Trail users have not been surveyed for conflicts. Approximately one third of the trails are managed to standard each year. The remaining trails are maintained to lesser standards.	The travel management process will resume in FY08 and will address the needs of trail users. Trails with the greatest need for maintenance are given first priority.
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Wall RD	Annually	Trail is mowed to a height below the sprocket level of bicycles. No user group conflicts reported.	No user conflicts reported.
LRMP Goal 2.a Objective 4 & 6	Recreation 2: Where does the demand for recreation opportunities warrant development of additional opportunities such as trails or campgrounds?	Bessey/ Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	

		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Meetings with the public have been conducted to gather information on trails needs. No formal monitoring has been done for additional campground opportunities.	There is a demand for motorized trails that will be addressed during the travel management process. The Recreation strategy calls for no additional campground construction with the possibility of campground closures.
		Wall RD	Five years	Saddle Pass Trail in the Rake Creek Area was initiated by a proponent. Proponent received cost sharing money from South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks for the trail.	NEPA for the Saddle Pass Trail is initiated.
Legal - National Historic Preservation Act; LRMP Goal 2.a Objectives 2, 3, & 4, LRMP Goal 2b Heritage Objectives 2 & 5, LRMP Goal 2c Geologic and Paleontologic Resources Objective 3 & Wildlife, Fish & Plant Use Objective 1, LRMP Goal 4a Objective 2	Recreation 3: To what extent are Grassland and Forest visitors informed of the recreation opportunities available to them; are they adequately guided to those recreation opportunities; and do they receive adequate interpretive information on National Register of Historic Places and other heritage sites, geologic, paleontologic, wildlife, plant, and recreation resources or opportunities?	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No formal monitoring was completed.	District recreation maps are available at the Supervisors office. District personnel provide recreation information to walk in and call in recreationists. The Hudson Meng Bison Killsite operated under a special use permit by the Mammoth site provides interpretation to the public from 5/15 thru labor day weekend 7 days a week.

		Wall RD	Five years	No formal monitoring accomplished. Estimate 15% of phone inquiries had searched for information on the NNF website and wanted additional information or could not find the information they were searching for.	Phone inquiries are directed to the Nebraska National Forest website if it would inform visitors of recreation opportunities they are interested in. Form letters are sent to people who request recreation information along with any supplemental information available such as flora and fauna checklists. Prairie dog shooting packets were assembled and NNF web information is updated on prairie dog shooting. Rockhounding is the second most popular recreation activity behind prairie dog shooting. The rockhounding handout continues to be a valuable tool providing consistent information to all inquiries in person, by phone or mail. Fossil poster continues to be a desirable information source to the visitors about paleontological resources. Temporary exhibits in the National Grasslands Visitor Center are designed to respond to Forest Service issues and topics such as weeds or black-footed ferrets.
36 CFR 219.21 (g) 36 CFR 295.2 &.5 LRMP Goal 2.a & 4.a	Travel and Access 1: What are the effects of vehicle use off roads?	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Two years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD	Two years	Started to identify user-defined trails in preparation for travel management.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Two years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Two years	No formal monitoring has been done however district personnel have observed an increase of user created trails and resource damage.	Travel management will resume in FY08.
		Wall RD	Two years	No formal monitoring accomplished.	Estimate that Inquiries about OHV oppourtunities have dropped 75%, significantly, from 2005.
Legal - National Historic Preservation Act; LRMP Goal 2.b Heritage Objectives 2 & 5	Heritage 1: To what extent are National Register sites and districts being protected and preserved?	Bessey/ Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	Historic Bessey Nursery (TM00-1/25TM11) was visited numerous times during 2006. The site is being fully protected and preserved. No incidents of vandalism were reported or observed.	Nursery tours were available to the public and interpretive panels were in place.
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	Hudson-Meng Bison Kill Site (25SX115) was visited numerous times during 2006. The Mammoth Site of Hot Springs, Inc. managed the site under special use permit (SUP). The site is being fully protected and preserved. No incidents of vandalism were reported or observed. Numerous new research investigations were conducted on site under the Mammoth Site SUP.	Hudson-Meng was open to the public and tours were available. Results of new research were quickly shared with the visiting public.
LRMP Goal 2.b Heritage	Heritage 2: To what extent are traditional	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No known traditional cultural properties.	

Objective 3	cultural properties being protected?				
		Fall River RD	Five years	No known traditional cultural properties.	One possible sacred site was identified in 2001.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No known traditional cultural properties.	
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No known traditional cultural properties.	
		Wall RD	Five years	No known traditional cultural properties.	
LRMP Goal 2.b	Special Interest Areas: To what extent have the special features found Special Interest Areas been conserved or enhanced?	Fall River RD	Five years	Drafted special order for no motorized travel in Redshirt areaand Triple Seven RNA area to be implimented in 2007.	
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
LRMP Goal 2.b	Research Natural Areas: To what extent have the unique research features of Research Natural Areas been conserved or enhanced?	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Wall RD	5yr	No formal monitoring completed.	
LRMP Goal 2.b	Wilderness: To what extent are the Soldier Creek Wilderness special features and communities of special concern conserved or enhanced?	Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
LRMP Goal 2.b	Recommended for Wilderness: To what extent are the Red Shirt and Indian Creek Recommended for Wilderness special features and communities of special concern conserved or enhanced?	Fall River RD	Five years	Drafted special order for no motorized travel in Redshirt area to be implimented in 2007.	
		Wall RD	Five years	No formal monitoring accomplished. Discussion among staff observing peak periods of use in Indian Creek.	District recognized the need for periodic patrols. Will work to implement in 2007.

Legal 36 CFR 219.7(f); LRMP Goal 2.c	Community Relations 2: What are the effects of National Forest System Management on adjacent communities?	Forest-wide	Annually	Public Notification: The Forest generated 29 news releases in 2006 which informed local area parties on a variety of subjects related to forest management. The Forest Supervisor, public affairs specialist, rangers, and other staff frequently participated in media interviews and local meetings to share and clarify information related to the Dawes Complex Fires on late July, early August, 2006.	
		Forest-wide	Annually	Technical Assistance: Fire personnel conducted basic firefighter training for area mutual aid Volunteer Fire Departments and National Guard units to allow them to meet the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) training certification requirements.	
		Forest-wide	Annually	Grants and Agreements: There were 44 new agreements between the Forest Service and partners in 2006. Examples of agreements include cooperative law enforcement, wildlife habitat improvement, and tree seedling sales and distribution. Agreements also include interagency agreements and state and federal agreements. Total value for 2006 was \$1,010,791 with Forest Service contributions of \$411,097 matched by partner contributions of \$599,694.	
		Bessey/ Samuel R. McKelvie	Annually	Charles E. Bessey Nursery and Bessey Ranger District employ 16 permanent staff who live and spend resources in local communities. Payments to counties primarily derived from permitted grazing fees of \$1.56 per Animal Unit Month (AUM) totalled \$2,703.94 for Blaine County, NE; \$19,900.99 for Cherry County, NE; and \$20,117.31 for Thomas County, NE. These payments do not include Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funds. Maintenance contracts for roads and facilities, many of which went to local area contractors totalled \$110, 390 in 2006.	Qualified firefighters from area VFD's and the National Gurard responded to the Dawes Complex Fires on the Pine Ridge Ranger District in July, 2006.
		Fall River RD	Annually	The District employs 11 permanent staff who, with their families, live in the Hot Springs area. Payments to counties, primarily from permitted livestock grazing fees of \$1.73 per AUM on national grasslands in 2006 included \$8,456.35 to Fall River County, SD; and \$1969.84 to Custer County, SD. Counties receive 25% of the net receipts generated on national grasslands.	Both local and agency contributions are leveraged to provide needed services that enhance the public value of the national forests and grasslands to stakeholders and local communities.
		Ft. Pierre NG	Annually	The Fort Pierre National Grassland continues to be identified by sports writers as a premier location for viewing and hunting prairie grouse. The effects of these attractions ripple through the Fort Pierre and Pierre, South Dakota economy and are the result of carefully managing grassland vegetation to provide habitat for these high interest species. Payments to counties, primarily generated from permitted livestock grazing fees of \$1.73 per AUM on national grasslands in 2006 included \$1804.32 to Jones County; \$5,491.06 to Lyman County; and \$3,227.64 to Stanley County. These payments do not include Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funds. One contract to rehabilitate Sheriff Dam for water storage, wetland habitat, and recreation was valued at \$57,694.00.	

		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Annually	The Pine Ridge Ranger District of the Nebraska National Forest, together with the Supervisor's Office employ 38 permanent staff, who along with their families live in Chadron and neighboring communities. Forest -wide, salaries account for over \$3.58 million, a significant portion of which is spent in local communities. Payments to counties, primarily generated by permitted livestock grazing fees on both national forest lands and national grasslands totalled \$10,383.13 from national forest receipts, and \$491.13 for Dawes County. Sioux County received \$2,487.62 from national forest receipts and \$1,880.21 from national grassland receipts. National forest grazing fees for 2006 were \$1.56 per AUM and National Grassland fees were \$1.73 per AUM.	
		Wall RD	Annually	Wall Ranger District employs seven permanent staff who, along with their families, live in Wall and neighboring communities. The National Grasslands Visitor Center is a focal point for visitors to receive information about the local area and national grasslands across the country as well as tourism attractions in the Black Hills and points west. It is an attractive component of the Wall community. Payments to counties, primarily generated from permitted livestock grazing fees, included in 2006--Pennington County, \$7,305.20 and Jackson County, \$\$3,857.07.	
LRMP Goal 2.c Miscellaneous Products Objective 1	Miscellaneous Products 1: To what extent is the demand for miscellaneous products being met?	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No requests from the public were made for these types of permits.	
		Fall River RD	Five years	No requests from the public were made for these types of permits.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No requests from the public were made for these types of permits.	
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No requests from the public were made for these types of permits.	
		Wall RD	Five years	No requests from the public were made for these types of permits.	
LRMP Goal 2.c Scenery Objective 1	Scenery 1: To what extent have scenery management objectives been met?	Bessey/Samuel R. McKelvie	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Fall River RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Ft. Pierre NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Pine Ridge RD/Oglala NG	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	
		Wall RD	Five years	No formal monitoring completed.	