

Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands 2010 Annual Monitoring Report

INTRODUCTION

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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 the Land and Resource Management Plan (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 chapter four of the LRMP.

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. 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 forests and grasslands. Monitoring and evaluation keep the LRMP up-to-date and responsive to changing issues by verifying the effectiveness and management plan standards and guidelines and anticipated program and project effects on resources, and providing information for amendments to the management plan.

The LRMP for the Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands (NNFG) identifies fifty-two monitoring questions in chapter 4 that would be monitored and evaluated to assess the effectiveness of the LRMP in meeting identified goals and objectives. This chapter also lays the framework for information required for five and ten year evaluation reports. Results of this monitoring report will assist in identifying priority and budget trends that would guide future priorities and budgets.

This monitoring and evaluation report is based on monitoring data and information gathered in 2010. It evaluates LRMP implementation and provides an overview of resource conditions and trends as they relate to indicators and criteria for sustainability with specific attention on the effects of management on ecological system structure and function.

This is the first year, 2010 annual report, that the NNFG has specifically addressed all fifty-two questions identified in chapter 4 of the LRMP. This is a result of previous monitoring budgets being smaller and the NNFG placing a much greater emphasis on monitoring

efforts. It is important to note that the monitoring item, not the monitoring questions, contributes to the cost factor in this monitoring effort.

The 2010 annual report is displayed below in table format. Column headings include the monitoring year, results summary, need for action and follow-up. Upon review of this report it will become evident that some questions and programs have much more data available to them in order to answer the monitoring question being asked. Other questions and programs which have limited data available to them in order to answer the monitoring question should receive a higher priority for monitoring funding so that the monitoring question can be adequately answered. In the case of all fifty-two monitoring questions, evaluation of the existing data needs to occur. This is identified in the "Need for Action" and "Follow-up" columns of this report.

Year	Monitoring Item	Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up
2010	Monitoring Item 1	Results Summary 1	Need for Action 1	Follow-up 1
2010	Monitoring Item 2	Results Summary 2	Need for Action 2	Follow-up 2
2010	Monitoring Item 3	Results Summary 3	Need for Action 3	Follow-up 3
2010	Monitoring Item 4	Results Summary 4	Need for Action 4	Follow-up 4
2010	Monitoring Item 5	Results Summary 5	Need for Action 5	Follow-up 5
2010	Monitoring Item 6	Results Summary 6	Need for Action 6	Follow-up 6
2010	Monitoring Item 7	Results Summary 7	Need for Action 7	Follow-up 7
2010	Monitoring Item 8	Results Summary 8	Need for Action 8	Follow-up 8
2010	Monitoring Item 9	Results Summary 9	Need for Action 9	Follow-up 9
2010	Monitoring Item 10	Results Summary 10	Need for Action 10	Follow-up 10
2010	Monitoring Item 11	Results Summary 11	Need for Action 11	Follow-up 11
2010	Monitoring Item 12	Results Summary 12	Need for Action 12	Follow-up 12
2010	Monitoring Item 13	Results Summary 13	Need for Action 13	Follow-up 13
2010	Monitoring Item 14	Results Summary 14	Need for Action 14	Follow-up 14
2010	Monitoring Item 15	Results Summary 15	Need for Action 15	Follow-up 15
2010	Monitoring Item 16	Results Summary 16	Need for Action 16	Follow-up 16
2010	Monitoring Item 17	Results Summary 17	Need for Action 17	Follow-up 17
2010	Monitoring Item 18	Results Summary 18	Need for Action 18	Follow-up 18
2010	Monitoring Item 19	Results Summary 19	Need for Action 19	Follow-up 19
2010	Monitoring Item 20	Results Summary 20	Need for Action 20	Follow-up 20
2010	Monitoring Item 21	Results Summary 21	Need for Action 21	Follow-up 21
2010	Monitoring Item 22	Results Summary 22	Need for Action 22	Follow-up 22
2010	Monitoring Item 23	Results Summary 23	Need for Action 23	Follow-up 23
2010	Monitoring Item 24	Results Summary 24	Need for Action 24	Follow-up 24
2010	Monitoring Item 25	Results Summary 25	Need for Action 25	Follow-up 25
2010	Monitoring Item 26	Results Summary 26	Need for Action 26	Follow-up 26
2010	Monitoring Item 27	Results Summary 27	Need for Action 27	Follow-up 27
2010	Monitoring Item 28	Results Summary 28	Need for Action 28	Follow-up 28
2010	Monitoring Item 29	Results Summary 29	Need for Action 29	Follow-up 29
2010	Monitoring Item 30	Results Summary 30	Need for Action 30	Follow-up 30
2010	Monitoring Item 31	Results Summary 31	Need for Action 31	Follow-up 31
2010	Monitoring Item 32	Results Summary 32	Need for Action 32	Follow-up 32
2010	Monitoring Item 33	Results Summary 33	Need for Action 33	Follow-up 33
2010	Monitoring Item 34	Results Summary 34	Need for Action 34	Follow-up 34
2010	Monitoring Item 35	Results Summary 35	Need for Action 35	Follow-up 35
2010	Monitoring Item 36	Results Summary 36	Need for Action 36	Follow-up 36
2010	Monitoring Item 37	Results Summary 37	Need for Action 37	Follow-up 37
2010	Monitoring Item 38	Results Summary 38	Need for Action 38	Follow-up 38
2010	Monitoring Item 39	Results Summary 39	Need for Action 39	Follow-up 39
2010	Monitoring Item 40	Results Summary 40	Need for Action 40	Follow-up 40
2010	Monitoring Item 41	Results Summary 41	Need for Action 41	Follow-up 41
2010	Monitoring Item 42	Results Summary 42	Need for Action 42	Follow-up 42
2010	Monitoring Item 43	Results Summary 43	Need for Action 43	Follow-up 43
2010	Monitoring Item 44	Results Summary 44	Need for Action 44	Follow-up 44
2010	Monitoring Item 45	Results Summary 45	Need for Action 45	Follow-up 45
2010	Monitoring Item 46	Results Summary 46	Need for Action 46	Follow-up 46
2010	Monitoring Item 47	Results Summary 47	Need for Action 47	Follow-up 47
2010	Monitoring Item 48	Results Summary 48	Need for Action 48	Follow-up 48
2010	Monitoring Item 49	Results Summary 49	Need for Action 49	Follow-up 49
2010	Monitoring Item 50	Results Summary 50	Need for Action 50	Follow-up 50
2010	Monitoring Item 51	Results Summary 51	Need for Action 51	Follow-up 51
2010	Monitoring Item 52	Results Summary 52	Need for Action 52	Follow-up 52

Monitoring Report

Monitoring Results

NNFG Vegetation 1

Spatial	Geographic Area		
Monitoring Year	Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up
2010			
Other	Bessey GA: The acreage/percentage of the geographic area meeting structure objectives is not known, but data has been collected. McKelvie GA: The acreage/percentage of the geographic area meeting structure objectives is known. Fall River NE GA: The acreage/percentage of the geographic area meeting structure objectives is not known, but data has been collected. Fall River SE GA: The acreage/percentage of the geographic area meeting structure objectives is not known, but data has been collected. Fall River West GA: The acreage/percentage of the geographic area meeting structure objectives is not known and data has not been collected. Wall North GA: The acreage/percentage of the geographic area meeting structure objectives is not known. Wall SE GA: The acreage/percentage of the geographic area meeting structure objectives is not known. Wall SW GA: The acreage/percentage of the geographic area meeting structure objectives is not known. Fort Pierre GA: The acreage/percentage of the geographic area meeting structure objectives is known. Oglala GA: The acreage/percentage of the geographic area meeting structure objectives is not known.	Bessey GA: Analysis needed of data collected. McKelvie GA: None Fall River NE GA: Analysis needed of data collected. Fall River SE GA: Analysis needed of data collected. Fall River West GA: Data collection and analysis needed. Wall North GA: Analysis needed of data collected in 1993-2005. Wall SE GA: Analysis needed of data collected in 1993-2005. Wall SW GA: Analysis needed of data collected in 1993-2005 Fort Pierre GA: None Oglala GA: Analysis needed of data collected. Pine Ridge GA: Analysis needed of data	Bessey GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle. McKelvie GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle. Fall River NE GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle. Fall River SE GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle. Fall River West GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle. Wall North GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle. Wall SE GA: Summarize and report

Pine Ridge GA: The acreage/percentage of the geographic area meeting structure objectives is not known.

collected.

previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.

Wall SW GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.

Fort Pierre GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.

Oglala GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.

Pine Ridge GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.

NNFG Community Relations 1

Spatial	Geographic Area		
Monitoring Year	Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up
2010			
Other	Bessey GA - Knows the extent of noxious weeds spreading from FS to other lands. No prairie dogs. McKelvie GA - Knows the extent of noxious weeds spreading from FS to other lands. No prairie dogs. Fall River NE GA - No known spread of noxious weeds from FS to other lands. Some known spread of prairie dogs from FS to other lands. Fall River SE GA - No known spread of noxious weeds from FS to other lands. Some known spread of prairie dogs from FS to other lands. Fall River West GA - No known spread of noxious weeds from FS to other lands. Some known spread of prairie dogs from FS to other lands. Wall North GA - Knows the extent that weeds and prairie dogs are spreading from FS to other lands. Wall SE GA - Knows the extent that weeds and prairie dogs are spreading from FS to other lands. Wall SW GA - Knows the extent that weeds and prairie dogs are spreading from FS to other lands. Fort Pierre GA - Knows the extent that weeds and prairie dogs are spreading from FS to other lands. Oglala GA - Knows the extent that weeds and prairie dogs are spreading from FS to other lands. Ocular surveys were performed on a portion of the Oglala N.G. and one adjacent private landowner for Mountain Pine Beetle	Oglala GA - Need to complete surveys and monitoring on an annual basis in areas of known previous infestations and to monitor areas that have not had Mountain Pine Beetle problems in the past.	Bessey GA - Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle. McKelvie GA - Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle. Fall River NE GA - Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle. Fall River SE GA - Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle. Fall River West GA - Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle. Wall North GA - Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle. Wall SE GA - Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.

infestation.

Pine Ridge GA - Knows the extent that weeds

and prairie dogs are spreading from FS to other lands.

Wall SW GA - Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.

Fort Pierre GA - Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.

Oglala GA - Inventory, monitor and analyze Mountain Pine Beetle infestations every year to determine any needed implementation. Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.

Pine Ridge GA - Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.

NNFG Damage Control 2

Spatial

Nebraska National Forest and Grasslands

Monitoring Year

2010

Other

Results Summary

Bessey GA: Species, location, and acres of noxious weeds known.
 McKelvie GA: Species, location, and acres of noxious weeds known.
 Fall River NE GA: Species, location, and acres of noxious weeds known.
 Fall River SE GA: Species, location, and acres of noxious weeds known.
 Fall River West GA: Species, location, and acres of noxious weeds known.
 Wall North GA: Species, location, and acres of noxious weeds known.
 Wall SE GA: Species, location, and acres of noxious weeds known.
 Wall SW GA: Species, location, and acres of noxious weeds known.
 Fort Pierre GA: Species, location, and acres of noxious weeds somewhat known.
 Oglala GA: Species, location, and acres of noxious weeds known.
 Pine Ridge GA: Species, location, and acres of noxious weeds known.

Need for Action

Bessey GA: None
 McKelvie GA: None
 Fall River NE GA: None
 Fall River SE GA: None
 Fall River West GA: None
 Wall North GA: None
 Wall SE GA: None
 Wall SW GA: None
 Fort Pierre GA: Need to complete additional inventory.
 Oglala GA: None
 Pine Ridge GA: None

Follow-up

Bessey GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.
 McKelvie GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.
 Fall River NE GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.
 Fall River SE GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.
 Fall River West GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.
 Wall North GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.
 Wall SE GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.

Wall SW GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.

Fort Pierre GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.

Oglala GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.

Pine Ridge GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.

NNFG Vegetation 2

Spatial

Geographic Area

Monitoring Year

2010

Other

Results Summary

Bessey GA: The acreage/percentage of vegetation composition is not known.
 McKelvie GA: The acreage/percentage of vegetation composition is not known.
 Fall River NE GA: The acreage/percentage of vegetation composition is not known, but data has been collected.
 Fall River Se GA: The acreage/percentage of vegetation composition is known.
 Fall River West GA: The acreage/percentage of vegetation composition is known.
 Wall North GA:
 Wall SE GA:
 Wall SW GA:
 Fort Pierre GA: The acreage/percentage of vegetation composition is known.
 Oglala GA: The acreage/percentage of vegetation composition is not known.
 Pine Ridge GA: The acreage/percentage of vegetation composition is not known.

Need for Action

Bessey GA: Composition data needs to be collected and analyzed.
 McKelvie GA: Composition data needs to be collected and analyzed.
 Fall River NE GA: Analysis of the data is needed.
 Fall River Se GA: None
 Fall River West GA: None
 Wall North GA: Composition data needs to be collected and analyzed.
 Wall SE GA: Composition data needs to be collected and analyzed.
 Wall SW GA: Composition data needs to be collected and analyzed.
 Fort Pierre GA: None
 Oglala GA: Composition data needs to be analyzed.
 Pine Ridge GA: Composition data needs to be analyzed.

Follow-up

Bessey GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.
 McKelvie GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.
 Fall River NE GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.
 Fall River Se GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.
 Fall River West GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.
 Wall North GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.
 Wall SE GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.

Wall SW GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.

Fort Pierre GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.

Oglala GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.

Pine Ridge GA: Summarize and report previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.

NNFG Administration

Spatial		Administrative unit wide		
Monitoring Year	Results Summary	Need for Action		Follow-up
2010	Fall River RD - Has collected data in 2010 using modified Robel Pole methodology to implement managing for standing herbage. Data is being analyzed by Dan Uresk. Samuel R. Mckelvie NF - Contracted with Patrick Reece to complete and ecological assessment of the sandy lowlands (published April 18, 2008).			
Other				

NNFG Suggested Stocking Rates

Spatial		Administrative unit-wide		
Monitoring Year	Results Summary	Need for Action		Follow-up
2010	The NRCS stocking rate guidelines are not be used. The existing stocking rates, which may differ greatly from the NRCS guidelines, are adjusted based on site specific monitoring. Generally, the NRCS guidelines would only be used when stocking an area for the first time.	None		None
Other				

NNFG Viability 1

Spatial	Administrative unit-wide			
Monitoring Year	Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up	
2010 Other	The Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands (NNFG) supports many sensitive species that are generally found in grassland and sagebrush habitats. Addressing viability for each species is impractical under limited budgets and resources. Therefore, we have focused on identified those species based on the LRMP risk assessment determinations, the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project's Tier 1 designations, and the South Dakota Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan's species of great conservation need designations. These species include: swift fox, ferruginous hawk, long-billed curlew, Chestnut-collared longspur, American peregrine falcon, short-eared owl, Greater prairie chicken, Greater sage grouse, Ottoe skipper, and Regal fritillary. The prairie dog was not included here as it is addressed in LRMP monitoring item Viability 5. Other sensitive species found in grassland and sagebrush habitats include grasshopper sparrow, McCown's longspur, Northern harrier, loggerhead shrike, and Brewer's sparrow. Notable sensitive species that have been monitored across the planning area include the swift fox, Greater prairie chicken, Greater sage grouse, Ottoe skipper and Regal fritillary butterflies, long-billed curlew, and the ferruginous hawk and Northern harrier (via wide-scale raptor surveys). Breeding bird survey routes have been completed on the NNFG that give us an idea of numbers and	A thorough analysis of the data collected is needed to assess the contribution of the NFS lands and management to the viability of these species. Continue swift fox monitoring and collaboration with partners in swift fox management. Focus monitoring activities on priority species identified above.	Analyze data in 2011 to determine the extent of the LRMP management's contribution to species viability. Report these results in the 2012 five-year reporting	

NNFG Damage Control 1

Spatial	Geographic Area			
Monitoring Year	Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up	
2010				
Other	OGA - One area on the Oglala N.G. is known to have had destructive insects (Mountain Pine Beetles). In 2010, the first ocular surveys to determine the extent of the destructive insects occurred. At that time, past timber activities were noted but not documented because they were identified to be on private and state lands. Aerial Detection Surveys are performed by the Forest Health Program staff on a scheduled cycle and maps are prepared with their findings. OGA and PRGA - Trapping to monitor "Presents or Absence" in Mountain Pine Beetle populations was conducted in 2010 across both Geographic Areas. Evaluation of Aerial Detection Surveys was completed on both the Oglala N.G. and Pine Ridge Ranger District. PRGA - The Forest Health Protection staff monitored Ips beetles in the Spotted Tail Fire area again in 2010 and communicated their findings to the district staff. BGA and MGA - Forest Health Program entomologists shared the maps of their most recent Aerial Detection Surveys (for both the Bessey Ranger District and Samuel R. McKelvie N.F.) with Pine Ridge/Bessey personnel. Forest Health Program entomologists made a visual survey on a	OGA and PRGA - Survey/monitor the area of known past destructive insect and disease outbreaks. Coordinate with State foresters to identify areas, acres and dates of previous and current timber activities on State and private lands. Coordinate with Forest Health Program entomologists to discuss Aerial Detection Surveys and "Presence or Absence" trapping. BGA and MGA - Annual monitoring of destructive insects and disease needs to be established. Annually meet with Forest Health Program staff to discuss Aerial Detection Surveys and future outlook.	OGA and PRGA - Annually meet with State foresters and State and Forest Service entomologists to review programs and share information on existing and possible insect/disease issues. Summarize and report data collected during the previous 5 years in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle. BGA and MGA - Annually meet with Forest Service entomologists and discuss current and potential insect and disease issues.	

NNFG Vegetation 3

Spatial	Geographic Area			
Monitoring Year	Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up	
2010				
Other	PRGA - Little progress was made toward meeting desired vegetation conditions. Units that were offered for thinning were not awarded (no bids). Force account crews accomplished some tree management along roads effected by the Spotted Tail and Roberts fires, as well as some acres in pasture 24C (near Camp Norwesca) and 37E (near the Cliffs). BGA - Great strides have been made toward meeting the Forest Plan over the last four or five years, but little progress was made in FY 2010 toward meeting desired vegetative conditions. Force account crews accomplished some tree management in Camp 5 South and the North Strip by removing cedar encroachment.	PRGA - Include proposed thinning areas into Black Hills thinning contracts, and utilize force account crews where appropriate. Summarize/analyze data, then complete the Ash Creek Assessment. Complete reforestation surveys, as well as, inventory and monitor large veg. in the Spotted Tail and Roberts fire areas. BGA - Include large thinning projects into Black Hills contracts. Annually survey or monitor for smaller areas of thinning to utilize force account crews (using mechanical means, example: skid steer) to accomplish work.	PRGA - Complete Ash Creek Landscape Assessment in 2011, complete Ash Creek NEPA in 2012, and implement projects in 2013. Monitoring, on an annual basis, in this area will also start in 2013. Continue to monitor annually in Chadron Creek and Bordeaux project areas to confirm we are proceeding towards the desired conditions. Summarize available data in the Forest Activity Tracking System (FACTS) for the past 5 years and report in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle. BGA - Complete McKelvie Landscape Assessment (in the areas of the tree tree plantations) in 2012, complete McKelvie NEPA in 2013, and implement projects in 2014. Monitoring, on an annual basis, in this area will also start in 2014. Continue to monitor annually in the Bessey I and Bessey II project areas to confirm we are proceeding towards the desired conditions. Summarize available data in the Forest Activity Tracking System (FACTS) for the past 5 years and report in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.	

NNFG Miscellaneous Products 1

Spatial	District			
Monitoring Year	Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up	
2010				
Other	PRRD - Pine Ridge District sold permits for Christmas trees, fuelwood and other misc. forest products as they were requested. Fuelwood and misc. forest products came from decked piles created through tree thinning activities. Christmas tree areas were designated where removal would help stop tree encroachment. Permits were entered into the Timber Information Management (TIM) system. BRD - Bessey District sold permits for fuelwood and other misc. forest products as they were requested. Fuelwood and misc. forest products came from decked piles created through tree thinning activities, as well as trees that died from insect/disease attack after a large hail storm. Permits were entered into the Timber Information Management (TIM) system. FRRD - Fall River Ranger District sold permits for Christmas trees and a single misc. forest product permit (free use). The misc. forest product permit allowed collection of material to be used during the Sun Dance	PRRD - Annual determine where misc. forest products could come from on the district. Continue to provide the public with opportunities to collect: fuelwood, other misc. forest products, Christmas trees, etc. BRD - Annual determine where misc. forest products could come from on the district. Continue to provide the public with opportunities to collect: fuelwood, other misc. forest products, Christmas trees, etc. FRRD - Continue to sell Christmas tree permits and Issue requested permits that meet the Forest Plan Goals and Objectives. WRD - Issue requested permits that meet the Forest Plan Goals and Objectives. FPRD - Issue requested permits that meet the Forest Plan Goals and Objectives.	PRRD - Annually offer Christmas trees and when available fuelwood/misc. forest products. Enter data (when appropriate) into the Timber Information Management (TIM) system to allow for the selling of and management of forest product permits. Summarize available permit data (located in the TIM database) for the past 5 years and report in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle. BRD - Annually offer Christmas trees and when available fuelwood/misc. forest products. Enter data (when appropriate) into the Timber Information Management (TIM) system to allow for the selling of and management of forest product permits. Summarize available permit data (located in the TIM database) for the past 5 years and report in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle. FRRD - Annually offer Christmas trees, and when available, misc. forest products. Enter data into the Timber Information Management (TIM) system to allow for the selling of and mgmt of forest product permits. Summarize available permit data (located in the TIM database) for the past 5 years and report in 2012. Continue to analyze data collected from 2012 to 2017 and report in the 2017 five year summary cycle.	

NNFG MIS 1

Spatial	Geographic Area			
Monitoring Year	Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up	
2010				
Other	Determining and identifying potential habitat for each MIS across each geographic area is a regulatory requirement under the National Forest Management Act. That process was completed during the development of the Land and Resource Management Plan Revision of 2001. This is fully discussed in the LRMP FEIS Chapter 3, pages 3-258 to 3-265.	No additional analysis is anticipated until the next LRMP revision or any amendment to add a new MIS.	None recommended.	

NNFG Riparian 1

Spatial	Geographic Area			
Monitoring Year	Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up	
2010				
Other	Woody Draws: Uresk methods for cottonwood, ash, hackberry	1.	Break monitoring item into three subparts	
For future monitoring and reporting,	Riparian scorecard monitoring has been completed – outdated, qualitative, and not repeatable	as follows:	perform the following for each Riparian-1	
	Function/Health/Stability	a.	RIPARIAN-1A: Perennial Stream sub-item:	
	No PFC monitoring has been completed	b.	RIPARIAN-1A: Perennial Stream	
	No streamflow regime forestwide; no stream reach on at least one stream per grazing stability assessments	Communities	RIPARIAN-1B: Riparian Vegetation	
	Data is housed locally at districts, if done. Not centrally located or available in standard databases.	c.	1. Establish and monitor a MIMS stream	
	Determine Rosgen stream classification	really belong with riparian? What is intent of monitoring hardwood draws? Veg/botany needs, thoughts, methods?	RIPARIAN-1C: Woody draws: does this	
		2.	allotment. MIMS includes Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessments	
		assessment of adequacy of data collected with respect to monitoring reporting needs (i.e. objective, repeatable, quantitative, standard	Gather data from districts; perform 2.	
			and stability assessments on perennial streams.	
			Continue to monitor and report every five	

methods, etc).

3.
monitoring question

RIPARIAN-1A: Perennial Stream
Function/Health/Stability

1)
inventory, monitoring, and analysis across
(perennial, intermittent, ephemeral) to identify
perennial streams across the NNF&G.

2)
Accomplish this through solid, acceptable,
timeline, conduct Region 2 general stream
health assessments simultaneously while
performing stream flow regime surveys.
RIPARIAN-1B: Riparian Vegetation
Communities

1) Work with range/botany to identify what
riparian vegetation indicators are desired for
monitoring and decide upon an established
protocol(s) and frequency for monitoring.
2) WCA indicators? Don't want to look at
just cottonwoods... overall jist of question
should be riparian veg communities not being
invaded by uplands (maintain hydric plants,
salix, carex, juncus, etc.)

3) Riparian monitoring protocol
RIPARIAN-1C: Woody Draws

1) Work with range/botany to identify what
woody draw indicators are desired for
monitoring and decide upon an established
protocol(s) and frequency for monitoring.

years under the LRMP Riparian 1
Implement monitoring strategy as follows:

Identify clear goals, objectives, and
feedback process for monitoring and
inventory Develop consistent methods of
Conduct stream flow regime inventory

the forest and within all the districts on the
Nebraska National Forest.

In order to meet the 2012 reporting

and scientific methods of inventory and
monitoring. Establish current and
potential conditions for characteristics that
are easily measured and repeatable. Create

NNFG Soil 1

Spatial	Geographic Area			
Monitoring Year	Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up	
2010				
Other	Districts have the information on the areas and what has been done. Data and information needs to be analyzed and brought to a standard	Gather district data and get into standardized databases (NRIS TERRA; SOLO) Monitor soils to determine where detrimental disturbance (FSH #####) exists (National Protocol) Develop stabilization/rehabilitation plans where necessary and implement. Report acres improved. A thorough analysis of the data collected is needed to assess What erosion processes are dominant within the watershed (e.g., surface erosion processes, mass wasting)? Where have they occurred or are they	Continue to monitor and report every five years under the LRMP Soil 1 monitoring question Identify clear goals, objectives, and feedback process for monitoring and inventory. Develop consistent methods of inventory, monitoring, and analysis across the forest and within all the districts on the Nebraska National Forest. Accomplish this through solid, acceptable, and scientific methods of inventory and monitoring. Establish current and potential conditions for characteristics that are easily measured and repeatable. Create and maintain accessible and analyzable data.	

NNFG Watershed 1

Spatial	Geographic Area			
Monitoring Year	Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up	
2010				
Other	There are outside Forest resources for water quality condition throughout the geographic areas. No data is available for restoration efforts on impaired streams.	Identify perennial/intermittent streams and lakes across the NNFG. Through outside criteria identify the criteria that are not being met. A thorough analysis of the data collected is needed to assess water quality condition on watersheds that contain National Forest System lands. Also identify what or if any measures have been done to restore or maintain possible water quality issues.	Continue to monitor and report every five years under the LRMP Watershed 1 monitoring question. Identify clear goals, objectives, and feedback process for monitoring and inventory. Develop consistent methods of inventory, monitoring, and analysis across the forest and within all the districts on the Nebraska National Forest. Accomplish this through solid, acceptable,	

Identify what is contributing to the degraded stream and develop an action plan based on what is wrong.

What are the dominant hydrologic characteristics (e.g., total discharge, peak flows, minimum flows) and other notable hydrologic features and processes in the watershed (e.g., cold water seeps, groundwater recharge areas)?

What beneficial uses dependent on aquatic resources occur in the watershed? Which water quality parameters are critical to these uses?

What are the current conditions and trends of the dominant hydrologic characteristics and

and scientific methods of inventory and monitoring. Establish current and potential conditions for characteristics that are easily measured and repeatable. Create and maintain accessible and analyzable data.

NNFG Watershed 2

Spatial

Geographic AreaWide

Monitoring Year

2010

Other

Results Summary

Similar to Watershed 1, outside resources have information/data on impaired waterbodies. No data is available through the forest/grasslands or outside resources for restoration efforts on impaired waterbodies.

Need for Action

Similar to Watershed 1, waterbodies need to be identified. Through outside resources, identify what criteria are not being met within the individual waterbodies. Based on what is found, develop an action plan to address those individual criteria's not being met to move an individual waterbody towards proper condition. A thorough analysis of the data collected is needed to assess the degraded waterbodies and the possible restoration measures implemented.

Follow-up

Continue to monitor and report every five years under the LRMP Watershed 2 monitoring question. Identify clear goals, objectives, and feedback process for monitoring and inventory. Develop consistent methods of inventory, monitoring, and analysis across the forest and within all the districts on the Nebraska National Forest. Accomplish this through solid, acceptable, and scientific methods of inventory and monitoring. Establish current and potential conditions for characteristics that are easily measured and repeatable. Create and maintain accessible and analyzable data.

NNFG Watershed 3

Spatial	Geographic Area			
Monitoring Year	Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up	
2010				
Other	No forest/grassland data is available. Outside resources, USGS, may be available to provide limited data/information. A few streams across the NNF have limited flow data.	What are the basic morphological characteristics of stream valleys and segments and the general sediment transport and deposition processes in the watershed (e.g., stratification using accepted classification systems)? A thorough analysis of the data collected is needed to assess the flora and fauna associated with streams across the NNF. Streams need to be identified. Base line stream flow data needs to be determined to determine the flows in the	Continue to monitor and report every five years under the LRMP Watershed 3 monitoring question Identify clear goals, objectives, and feedback process for monitoring and inventory. Develop consistent methods of inventory, monitoring, and analysis across the forest and within all the districts on the Nebraska National Forest. Accomplish this through solid, acceptable, and scientific methods of inventory and monitoring. Establish current and potential conditions for characteristics that are easily measured and repeatable. Create and maintain accessible and analyzable data.	

NNFG Watershed 4

Spatial	Administrative unit-wide			
Monitoring Year	Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up	
2010				
Other	Districts have information on abandoned wells. This data was sent to the Lands Program Manager.	A thorough analysis of the data collected is needed to assess the amount of wells properly decommissioned as well as the wells that still are in need to be decommissioned across the forest. Look at and assess the data/information that	Continue to monitor and report annually under the LRMP Watershed 4 monitoring question Identify clear goals, objectives, and feedback process for monitoring and inventory. Develop consistent methods of inventory, monitoring, and analysis across the forest and within all the districts on the Nebraska National Forest. Accomplish this through solid, acceptable, and scientific methods of inventory and monitoring. Establish current and	

potential conditions for characteristics that are easily measured and repeatable. Create and maintain accessible and analyzable data.

NNFG MIS 2

Spatial	Geographic Area			
Monitoring Year	Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up	
2010				
Other	Black-tailed Prairie Dog: Data available to address the “current habitat capability” for prairie dogs from the geographical areas with this MIS include VORs and range analysis. Other data available includes Suitability Index on prairie dog colonies, precipitation data from NOAA, soil maps, and rodenticide use information. This information will be available to assess current habitat conditions and trends across the GAs. Prairie Grouse (Sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse, and prairie chickens): Data available to address the “current habitat capability” for prairie grouse from the geographical areas with these MIS include VORs and range analysis. Other data includes precipitation data from NOAA, soil maps, and forests and grasslands fire data. This information will be available to assess current habitat conditions and trends across the GAs. Pygmy nuthatch: Data available to address the “current habitat capability” for pygmy nuthatch includes tree stand data, forest fire data, and the SCP technical conservation assessment from 2006. This information will be available to assess current habitat conditions	A thorough analysis of the data collected is needed to assess the current condition and trend of key habitats for each MIS.	Analyze data in 2011 to determine the current condition and trend of key habitats for each MIS. Report these results in the 2012 five-year reporting cycle for the	

NNFG MIS 3

Spatial	Geographic Area			
Monitoring Year	Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up	
2010				
Other	Black-tailed Prairie Dog: Data available to address the "long-term population trends" for prairie dogs from the geographical areas with this MIS includes our colony acre and burrow density monitoring. Colony acres have been collected via GPS technology. Burrow densities have been collected mainly in the Conata Basin area. Other data such as vegetative structure and composition, Suitability Index, and overall habitat quality will supplement our ability to assess long-term population trends and the effects of management activities on habitats of prairie dogs on each GA. Prairie Grouse (Sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse, and prairie chickens): Data available to address the "long-term population trends" for prairie grouse from the geographical areas with these MIS will include annual grouse display ground monitoring data and collected wing harvest data. Other data such as vegetative structure and composition, Suitability Index, and overall habitat quality will supplement our ability to assess long-term population trends and the effects of management activities on habitats of prairie grouse on each GA. Pygmy nuthatch: Currently, there is limited data to assess long-term population trends for the pygmy nuthatch in the Pine Ridge Geographic Area. Surveys conducted from 2002 to 2004, focusing on absence/presence of nuthatch, could be used to assist in	A thorough analysis of the data collected is needed to assess the long-term population trends for each MIS and the relationships between these trends and the effects of management activities on habitats. Additional site-specific population data is needed for the pygmy nuthatch in the PRGA.	Analyze data in 2011 to determine the long-term population trends for each MIS and the relationships between these trends and the effects of management activities on habitats. Report these results in the 2012 five-year reporting cycle for the LRMP. Develop a population monitoring strategy for the pygmy nuthatch on the PRGA and begin implementation from 2012 to 2017. Consider outside resources for monitoring (i.e. partnerships with RMBO, NGPC, and/or CSC).	

determining some site specific long-term population trends in the GA. A 2006 SCP technical conservation assessment was conducted that also could provide trend data. Additionally, tree stand and forest fire data will also contribute to analyzing the effects of

NNFG T&E 1

Spatial

Geographic Areas: Wall Southwest; Fall River Southeast

Monitoring Year

2010

Other

Results Summary

Conata Basin (Wall Southwest GA): The black-footed ferret reintroduction site continues to be one of the most successful sites despite a current plague epizootic that has reduced the prairie dog population by 50% since 2008. The Conata Basin is one of just a few of the reintroduction sites that contain a self-sustaining population. Since 1999, a total of 207 black-footed ferrets have been translocated from the Conata Basin to 6 of 8 states, 4 of 5 Indian Reservations and 11 of 19 sites participating in ferret recovery.

The population has decreased significantly since plague started impacting the Conata Basin in 2008. Although the best habitat for ferrets has been dusted, approximately 50% of the available habitat has been lost. However, we believe approximately 2/3 of the pre-plague ferret population (~200 animals) still remains. In 2009, we conducted a statistically rigorous population estimate using Correlated Density Estimate (CDE) through the Mark-Recapture software program to get a more accurate population estimate. The results of that study indicated we had an actual population estimate of 201 (95% CI = 180-222) across the Basin as opposed to the minimum numbers alive

Need for Action

Conata Basin: More robust surveys in 2011 will help us evaluate whether the ferret population is continuing to trend downward or not as a result of plague and our management actions responding to the plague outbreak. Smithwick: Discuss ways to encourage prairie dog expansion in this MA 3.63 to promote suitable ferret reintroduction habitat.

Follow-up

Conata Basin: Conduct the Correlated Density Estimate (CDE) procedure through the Mark-Recapture software program to get a more accurate population estimate in 2011. Increase spotlighting efforts by further exploring partnerships, volunteers and NGO assistance. Smithwick: Initiate proactive prairie dog management discussion in 2011.

(MNA) population estimate of 178. The MNA means these are just the animals we were able to trap and chip – there are more animals out there.

In 2010, we had a significantly reduced spotlight effort and were not able to conduct the CDE. Thus, our MNA resulted in only 91 animals trapped-up. Although this is significantly lower than what we found the year before, our catch-per-unit effort (# BFFs identified per spotlight hour) was similar between the two years (0.151 BFFs/hr [2009]; 0.149 BFFs/hr [2010]) and trap success rates (# BFFs captured/# trapping attempts) were also similar (41.2% and 41.8% in 2009 and 2010 respectively) (Griebel and Livieri 2011). So, we have reason to believe the actual population is probably close to 2009 levels.

With the current plague epizootic, the prairie dog population in the Conata Basin has declined significantly from a high of 31,372 acres in 2007 to 15,257 acres in 2010. The territory adjusted Ferret Family Rating (FFR), which is based on both acres of active prairie dogs and prairie dog density is used as a measure to quantify both the amount and quality of black-footed ferret habitat. In 2006 the FFR came-out to 400.8 (Livieri 2007) compared to 207.9 in 2010 (Griebel 2010). The underlying assumption of all FFR estimates is that the number of adult black-footed ferrets is equivalent to one-half FFR (e.g., 200 FFR = 100 adults).

Smithwick (Fall River Southeast): No ferrets currently inhabit Management Area 3.63 in this GA. Prairie dog acreages are being monitored.

NNFG T&E 2

Spatial

Geographic Areas: Bessey and McKelvie

Monitoring Year

2010

Other

Results Summary

The Sandhills of Nebraska is one of the most successful blowout penstemon reintroduction sites in the world. With cooperation from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, reintroduction efforts of blowout penstemon continue into suitable areas on the Bessey and McKelvie Geographic Areas. Seed collection from McKelvie continues for growth at the Bessey Nursery. In 2010, 40 grams of seed was collected resulting in 610 seedlings being transplanted in blowouts on the Bessey GA.

Bessey Geographic Area: Counts of plants in have been conducted in 3 blowout sites from 2005 – 2010. Data show an increase of 571 to 654 individuals during these years. Evidence about seed set and reproduction can be derived from numbers of flowering plants. This has increased from 158 in 2005 to 390 in 2010. There is no specific evidence of distribution changes.

McKelvie Geographic Area: Counts of plants in 4 sites have been completed at McKelvie from 2005 – 2010. Data show an increase of 665 to 26,880 individuals during these years. Evidence about seed set and reproduction can be derived from numbers of flowering plants. This has increased from 438 in 2005 to 9917 in 2010.

The National Forest System lands and the management activities continue to contribute to the recovery and viability of the penstemon. Reduced grazing intensity, implementation of

Need for Action

Annual monitoring of blowout penstemon should continue. Survey protocols should be re-evaluated to increase efficiency while maintaining statistical data integrity. There has been no inventory of naturally occurring populations or of suitable habitats (GA-wide) for reintroduction sites since 1995. Because of successful reintroduction efforts, new inventories should be conducted. In addition, it is not clear that management plans for each population have been established and implemented. A general strategy and management plan should be developed in cooperation with the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Follow-up

Coordinate with partners to develop a blowout penstemon strategy and management plan (including monitoring protocol) within the next 2 years. Report current monitoring activities in 2012 and report annually.

grazing systems by ranchers, wildfire suppression and a recent travel management decision has resulted in increased plant cover and stabilized blowouts.

NNFG T&E 3

Spatial

Administrative unit-wide

Monitoring Year

Results Summary

Need for Action

Follow-up

2010

Other

On August 9, 2007, the bald eagle was removed from the federal list of threatened and endangered species. The bald eagle continues to no longer need the protection of the Endangered Species Act. To ensure that eagles continue to thrive, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service worked with state wildlife agencies to monitor eagles. If it appears that bald eagles again need the protection of the Endangered Species Act, the Service can propose to relist the species. Although they are delisted, bald eagles are still protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Lacey Act.

The Forest Service Region 2 has listed the bald eagle as a Regional Forester's Sensitive Species. Monitoring of the bald eagle and discussion will take place under the Viability 2 monitoring question of the LRMP.

Continue to monitor and report every five years under the LRMP Viability 2 monitoring question.

NNFG T&E 4

Spatial

Geographic Areas: Bessey and McKelvie

Monitoring Year

Results Summary

Need for Action

Follow-up

2010

Other

Survey data has been collected from 2003 to present for the Bessey Geographic Area (BGA), and 2004-2006 for the McKelvie Geographic Area (MGA).

In July 2010, District biologist attended a national American Burying Beetle (ABB)

Analyze monitoring data to date to address the extent of our management and its contribution to the viability of the ABB on the Bessey and McKelvie GAs. Continue cooperation with other state and federal government agencies to develop a more proactive management program for the ABB on these GAs. Work with

Analyze ABB monitoring data in 2011 and provide annual report in 2012.

Workshop in Kearney, Nebraska. Discussions on various protocols in different parts of the state and country occurred. Attendees of the meeting identified several action items for ABB management. They include: the need to revisit the recovery plan; identify new areas for the species through monitoring; research needs and funding research opportunities; managing habitats through fire and grazing; and composition of scavengers; and using model to project where ABB might be predicted.

prediction model and provide data and assistance to advance the model.

NNFG T&E 5

Spatial

Administrative unit-wide

Monitoring Year

Results Summary

Need for Action

Follow-up

2010

Other

The whooping crane is a rare visitor to the Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands. Incidental observations of whooping cranes have been reported on the Ft. Pierre Geographical Area in the past. Two unconfirmed reports of whooping cranes flying over the grassland during fall migration were made in 2003; however no reports of sightings have been made since then. No nesting or wintering habitat is present on any of the units.

Based on this information, the NNFG has very little potential to affect the recovery or viability of the whooping crane.

Continue to report any sightings of whooping cranes to State and Federal officials.

None recommended.

NNFG T&E 6

Spatial

Geographic Areas: Oglala; Fall River Southeast; & Fall River West

Monitoring Year

2010

Other

Results Summary

Mountain plovers are classified as accidental in the state of South Dakota by the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union. The historic breeding distribution of mountain plovers extended eastward from their present range to include western Nebraska and extreme western South Dakota. The only confirmed record of the mountain plover on the Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands in recent years occurred during the summer of 2004 when a single bird was observed in Conata Basin. A mountain plover species assessment prepared for the Forest Service was also consulted (see Dinsmore, S.J. (2003, December 8). Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*): a technical conservation assessment. [Online]. USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region. Available: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/projects/scp/assessments/mountainplover.pdf> [March 18, 2011]).

Mountain plovers are a disturbed-prairie or semi-desert species rather than a grassland species. In grassland areas they are often associated with prairies dominated by blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*). Throughout their range, mountain plovers selectively nest on active prairie dog colonies, especially those of black-tailed prairie dogs.

Prairie dog colonies would be the primary potential habitat for mountain plover on the NNFG. Prairie dog colonies throughout the NNFG have been visited numerous times for

Need for Action

It is believed there are no mountain plovers on the NNFG at this time. The NNFG is marginal habitat located on the edge of the bird's former range. No formal mountain plover surveys are planned. Breeding bird survey routes and prairie dog surveys will continue to be completed. If a mountain plover is located this strategy will be reevaluated.

Follow-up

If a mountain plover is located this strategy will be reevaluated.

various surveys and no plovers have been observed. Also breeding bird survey routes are conducted annually with the same result.

NNFG T&E 7

Spatial

Geographic Areas: Fall River Southeast, West, and Northeast

Monitoring Year	Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up
2010			
Other	A comprehensive floristic survey in 2005 of the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands was conducted by personnel from the University of Wyoming. The study found no suitable habitat for Ute's ladies' tresses in the Fall River Southeast, West and Northeast GAs. In addition, the USFWS and South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks do not list this plant as a federally listed or State listed species for South Dakota.	None recommended.	None recommended.

NNFG Viability 2

Spatial

Administrative unit-wide

Monitoring Year	Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up
2010			
Other	The Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands (NNFG) supports many sensitive species that are generally found in riparian and wetland habitats. Addressing viability for each species is impractical under limited budgets and resources. Therefore, we have focused on identified those species based on the LRMP risk assessment determinations, the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project's Tier 1 designations, and the South Dakota Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan's species of great conservation need designations. These species include: Black tern, trumpeter swan, American bald eagle, and Northern leopard frog. Other	A thorough analysis of the data collected is needed to assess the contribution of the NFS lands and management to the viability of these species. Continue to report bald eagle observations across the planning units. Assist in the Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Surveys conducted by the State agencies and Fish and Wildlife Service. Focus monitoring activities on priority species identified above.	Analyze data in 2011 to determine the extent of the LRMP management's contribution to species viability. Report these results in the 2012 five-year reporting

sensitive species found in riparian and wetland habitats include American bittern, yellow-billed cuckoo, Plain's leopard frog, lesser panicked sedge, yellow lady's slipper, slender bristlegrass, yellow widelip orchid, Hall's bulrush, and lesser bladderwort.

Notable sensitive species that have been monitored across the planning area include the trumpeter swan, American bald eagle and Northern leopard frog.

NNFG Viability 3

Spatial

Administrative unit-wide

Monitoring Year

2010

Other

Results Summary

The Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands (NNFG) supports many sensitive species that are generally found in aquatic habitats. Addressing viability for each species is impractical under limited budgets and resources. Therefore, we have focused on identified those species based on the LRMP risk assessment determinations, the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project's Tier 1 designations, and the South Dakota Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan's species of great conservation need designations. These species include: Northern leopard frog, pearl dace, and finescale dace. Other sensitive species found in aquatic habitats include Plain's leopard frog, Sturgeon chub, Plain's minnow, and flathead chub.

A notable sensitive species that has planning and monitoring activities occurring across the planning area include the Northern leopard frog. Chytrid fungus has been monitored at the Ft.

Need for Action

A thorough analysis of the data collected is needed to assess the contribution of the NFS lands and management to the viability of these species. Conduct a leopard frog surveys across the planning unit to identify over-winter locations and breeding ponds. Continue collaboration with State agencies to monitor streams and ponds for sensitive fish species. Work with the Regional Office to develop a proactive aquatic management program, focusing on warm-water grassland environments. Focus monitoring activities on priority species identified above.

Follow-up

Analyze data in 2011 to determine the extent of the LRMP management's contribution to species viability. Report these results in the 2012 five-year reporting

Pierre GA, which is not believed to currently exist in this GA. District-wide N. leopard frog surveys are being planned across the NNFG Units.

NNFG Viability 4

Spatial

Administrative unit-wide

Monitoring Year

2010

Other

Results Summary

The Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands (NNFG) supports many sensitive species that are generally found in forested habitats. Addressing viability for each species is impractical under limited budgets and resources. Therefore, we have focused on identified those species based on the LRMP risk assessment determinations, the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project's Tier 1 designations, and the South Dakota Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan's species of great conservation need designations. These species include: Townsend's big-eared bat, fringed myotis, Lewis' woodpecker, and Northern goshawk. Other sensitive species found in forested habitats include the American bald eagle and the cooper's Rocky Mountain snail.

A notable sensitive species that is not considered a resident of the NNFG is the flammulated owl. However, a recent discovery on the Pine Ridge geographic area of a juvenile flammulated owl has prompted some survey

Need for Action

A thorough analysis of the data collected is needed to assess the contribution of the NFS lands and management to the viability of these species. Focus monitoring activities on priority species identified above.

Follow-up

Analyze data in 2011 to determine the extent of the LRMP management's contribution to species viability. Report these results in the 2012 five-year reporting

NNFG Viability 5

Spatial

Administrative unit-wide

Monitoring Year

2010

Other

Results Summary

The Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands (NNFG) supports many sensitive species that are generally found on prairie dog colony habitats. Addressing viability for each species is impractical under limited budgets and resources. Therefore, we have focused on identified those species based on the LRMP risk assessment determinations, the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project's Tier 1 designations, and the South Dakota Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan's species of great conservation need designations. These species include: Black-tailed prairie dogs, swift fox, burrowing owl, and ferruginous hawks.

Notable sensitive species that have been monitored across the planning area include prairie dogs, burrowing owl density, and swift fox.

Need for Action

A thorough analysis of the data collected is needed to assess the contribution of the NFS lands and management to the viability of these species. Continue to monitor prairie dog colony size and distribution. Prioritize those areas with or threatened with sylvatic plague. Continue swift fox monitoring and collaboration with partners in swift fox management. Focus monitoring activities on priority species identified above.

Follow-up

Analyze data in 2011 to determine the extent of the LRMP management's contribution to species viability. Report these results in the 2012 five-year reporting

NNFG Viability 6

Spatial

Administrative unit-wide

Monitoring Year

2010

Other

Results Summary

The Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands (NNFG) supports many sensitive species that are generally found in special habitats like caves, cliffs, buttes, blowouts, and barren habitats. Addressing viability for each species is impractical under limited budgets and resources. Therefore, we have focused on

Need for Action

A thorough analysis of the data collected is needed to assess the contribution of the NFS lands and management to the viability of these species. Continue collaboration with the NGPC and bighorn sheep management in the Pine Ridge GA. Focus inventory and monitoring activities on priority species

Follow-up

Analyze data in 2011 to determine the extent of the LRMP management's contribution to species viability. Report these results in the 2012 five-year reporting

identified those species based on the LRMP risk assessment determinations, the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project's Tier 1 designations, and the South Dakota Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan's species of great conservation need designations. These species include: Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, Visser's buckwheat, and Barr's milkvetch.

Notable sensitive species that have been monitored across the planning area include bighorn sheep, Visser's buckwheat, and Barr's milkvetch. The NNFG has been a partner with the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission (NGPC) in the reintroduction and management of bighorn sheep on the Pine Ridge GA. Several floristic studies have been conducted on the Fall River and Wall Ranger Districts.

NNFG Viability 7

Spatial

Geographic areas: Oglala; Fort Pierre

Monitoring Year

2010

Other

Results Summary

In 2005, a LRMP amendment was implemented on all geographic areas (excluding Management Areas 3.63), including the Oglala and Ft. Pierre GAs. This amendment provides direction to resolve prairie dog encroachment issues along federal / private land boundaries. In addition, a collaborative effort has been initiated with interest groups (permittees and environmentalists) exploring ways to find common ground between all interest groups.

In 2006, a NFS land exchange took place on the Ft. Pierre GA consisting of a 272 acre

Need for Action

A complete report of the landownership adjustment program and its effectiveness in reducing private land conflicts involving prairie dogs is needed.

Follow-up

Review all cooperative agreements and landownership adjustments and report these activities in the 2012 five-year reporting cycle for the LRMP.

Forest Service parcel for 240 acres of private land. This exchange allowed a nearby prairie dog town to expand somewhat over what it could have expanded without the land exchange.

Other notable landownership adjustment with the Forest Service included the Indian Creek Land Exchange, which was finalized in 2009. The difference in prairie dog acres acquired vs. loss from the land exchange resulted in a net gain of approximately 118 acres for the Wall RD. Additionally, one BMZ colony of about 100 acres on the District now fell outside the BMZ area with the acquisition of adjacent private land through the exchange. Another land exchange within the Smithwick MA 3.63 also reduced the BMZ significantly in that area.

In addition, The Nature Conservancy has purchased two ranches and some isolated parcels in the Conata Basin, further reducing

NNFG Wildlife 1

Spatial	MA 3.51	Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up
Monitoring Year				
2010		Since the LRMP 2001 Revision began, several events have occurred to the Management Area 3.51 Bighorn Sheep Habitat (West Ash and Chadron Creek areas). They include the movement and translocation of bighorn sheep to these areas by the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission (NGPC); a deforestation wildlife in 2006 mainly to the Chadron Creek area MA 3.51; and a 2010 travel management decision that limits off road travel to only designated routes and thus reducing potential disturbance	A new habitat effectiveness assessment should be conducted for MA 3.51 in cooperation with the NGPC.	Conduct a habitat assessment within the next 3 years.
Other				

to bighorn sheep lambing areas in this MA. These changing events will have a positive affect by improving bighorn sheep habitat by the reduction of forested areas on very steep bighorn sheep habitat, and reducing potential human disturbance near bighorn sheep lambing and resting areas.

NNFG Vegetation 4

Spatial

Administrative unit-wide

Monitoring Year

2010

Other

Results Summary

According to District contacts, they have data for this monitoring item. R2 Veg/GIS, minimal wetland data is available. Wetland mapping data is available through outside sources; there are discrepancies between those

Need for Action

What is the array and landscape pattern of plant communities and seral stages in the watershed

(riparian and nonriparian)? What processes cause these patterns (e.g., fire, wind, mass wasting)?

A thorough analysis of the data collected is needed to assess the vegetation conditions within wetland and riparian areas across the NNFG.

- 1) gather data, input into electronic formats (GIS, databases) that are accessible
- 2) inventory/mapping of wetlands
- 3) wetland assessments (USFS GDE Protocol,

Follow-up

Continue to monitor and report every five years under the LRMP Vegetation 4 monitoring question

Identify clear goals, objectives, and feedback process for monitoring and inventory. Develop consistent methods of inventory, monitoring, and analysis across the forest and within all the districts on the Nebraska National Forest.

Accomplish this through solid, acceptable, and scientific methods of inventory and monitoring. Establish current and potential conditions for characteristics that are easily measured and repeatable. Create and maintain accessible and analyzable data.

NNFG Recreation 1

Spatial	District			
Monitoring Year		Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up
2010				
Other		Pine Ridge, Wall and Bessey Districts have done condition surveys as part of annual maintenance and have reported miles of trail meeting regional standards. They have not used the TRACS protocol. Fall River District did not have system trails prior to this fiscal year. Therefore they have not done condition surveys but will begin this summer using the TRACS protocol. Fort Pierre District has no system trails. All Districts: No reports of conflicts among users.	Trail condition surveys are assigned annually by the Washington Office for all Trail class 1-4 trails. Trail Class 5 trails are required to be surveyed every five years.	The Bessey District has been assigned a TRACS survey on the Poison Ivy Trail for 2.914 miles. To be completed by 9/30/2011. The Pine Ridge District has been assigned a TRACS survey on the Pine Ridge Mountain Bike Trail for 10.5 miles. To

NNFG Recreation 2

Spatial	District			
Monitoring Year		Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up
2010				
Other		No district specific information has been documented. Forestwide, results from the National Visitor Use Monitoring indicate that our visitors are generally very satisfied with the developed sites provided and do not feel crowded at the sites.	Documentation of times when the capacities of developed sites are exceeded and areas outside of developed sites that are showing environmental degradation due to overuse.	Within the next five years develop a method for tracking documentation of the times when developed site capacities are exceeded and general forest areas are degraded due to overuse.

NNFG Recreation 3

Spatial	District			
Monitoring Year	Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up	
2010				
Other	No district specific information has been documented. Forestwide, results of National Visitor Use Monitoring indicate that less than half of our visitors are satisfied with the adequacy of our signing. In addition, we have received complaints about the forest website.	Improve the forest website. Review and update the sign plans for each district including needs/opportunities for interpretive signing. Review the interpretive master plan for the Hudson-Meng National Historic Site and update as necessary.	In 2011, the forest website is being updated.	

NNFG Travel and Access 1

Spatial	District			
Monitoring Year	Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up	
2010				
Other	During the Travel Management analysis, roads and trails including those created by users were evaluated for inclusion in the transportation system for each district. Roads and trails deemed unnecessary or environmentally unacceptable where not included in the	Documentation of off-road vehicle caused incidents of erosion and new unauthorized	Incidents of erosion caused by off-road vehicles on system roads and trails will be documented during condition surveys. A protocol for documentation of new unauthorized roads or trails will be developed as part of travel management implementation.	

NNFG Heritage 1

Spatial	Site or District			
Monitoring Year	Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up	
2010				
Other	Hudson-Meng: As yet has an unapproved Preservation Plan (as identified in the Plan Goal 2.b #3). Actively interpreted to the public each year from May through September (interpretation may be getting out of date according to new research). Current research partner is St. Cloud State. Warbonnet: Needs to be nominated to the National Register. Interpretation update needed. Whiskey Cave: Needs to be nominated to the National Register. Interpretation Developed. Bessey: Need for updated Preservation Plan for Bessey so we don't continue to "nickel and dime" the historic integrity out of the District. No Vandalism. Consultation w/ SHPO for bridge, pool demolition.	Hudson-Meng: Collect bone deterioration data, develop a preservation plan. Hudson-Meng: Involve tribes in updating interpretation. Warbonnet: Develop and implement preservation plan and updated interpretation. Whiskey Cave: Interpretation Bessey: Develop, in consultation with the NE SHPO		

NNFG Heritage 2

Spatial	Geographic area			
Monitoring Year	Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up	
2010				
Other	No known Traditional Cultural Properties.	For all geographic areas - Annual or Bi-Annual Tribal Consultation meetings to discuss potential areas of importance. Integrate NEPA Tribal Consultation, NEPA Consultation, and Section 106 project specific consultation to identify areas of significance.	Manage areas accordingly with avoidance of activities that could affect Traditional Use.	

NNFG Special Interest Areas

Spatial	Area Specific			
Monitoring Year		Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up
2010				
Other		No Formal monitoring has been completed. Special Interest Areas are patrolled by employees and Field Protection Officers during periods of high use. Some areas are regularly visited by the general public, such as Hudson-Meng and Toadstool Park, where visitation numbers are documented for use but that information does not answer the specific monitoring question above.	There is a need to monitor Special Interest Areas for the special features they were	Re-evaluate in 2012.

NNFG Research Natural Areas

Spatial	Area Specific			
Monitoring Year		Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up
2010				
Other		No Formal monitoring has been completed.	There is a need to monitor the Research Natural Areas identified in this Plan to ensure that management activities have not changed the special values these lands have been designated for.	

NNFG Wilderness

Spatial	Area Specific			
Monitoring Year	Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up	
2010				
Other	The following monitoring items have been implemented in the Soldier Creek Wilderness as a part of the Chief's 10 Year Wilderness Challenge: Invasive Species Inventory and annual monitoring/treatment Wilderness Education Plan - updated annually Recreation Site Inventory using the Minimum National Protocol All items are recorded in the Infra-Wild	The FY11 Element of the Chief's 10 Year Wilderness Challenge selected for emphasis in Region 2 is Air Quality. Emphasis for FY12 will be an information needs assessment. Monitoring of Invasive Species and updates to Wilderness Education Plan will continue annually. Recreation Site Inventory will be reviewed and updated every five years.	An air quality monitoring plan will be completed for the Soldier Creek Wilderness in FY11. An information needs assessment will be completed in FY12.	

NNFG Recommended for Wilderness

Spatial	Area Specific			
Monitoring Year	Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up	
2010				
Other	No area specific monitoring of the conditions or features that lead to recommending the Red Shirt and Indian Creek areas for wilderness has been conducted. However, wilderness characteristics are considered in the environmental document for any projects	In the next LRMP revision, further direction for monitoring and management actions to protect opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation; direction to prevent degradation of the wilderness resource; and adequate direction for fire management should be addressed. In addition, some elements of the Chief's 10 Year Wilderness Challenge should be addressed for each area. Specifically, invasive species inventories, air quality monitoring plans, education plans, recreation site inventories and information needs assessments if completed would provide baseline information for monitoring the features and communities within these areas.	As funding allows, complete the plans and inventories described above.	

NNFG Community Relations 2

Spatial	County & community depending on data availability		
Monitoring Year	Results Summary	Need for Action	Follow-up
2010	The NNF&G obligated \$67,000 to local community governments through implementation of grants and agreements. Local communities also received payments through the Secure Rural Schools Act (replacement of PILT) ranging from \$10,000 to \$127,000 depending upon the amount of federal land located within the specific county. The NNF&G issued approximately 1.2 million dollars worth of work to local contractors within the communities in and surrounding the Forests and Grasslands.	None have been identified.	Next reporting 2011
Other	The NNF&G employs approximately 70 employees within the communities of Chadron and Halsey Nebraska, and Hot Springs, Wall, and Fort Pierre South Dakota. The NNF&G also hire a seasonal workforce, typically about 30 individuals which is generated from members of the local communities, collectively contributing 5.5 million dollars to these communities. The NNF&G plays host to several organized events each year that brings tourist and visitors into our local communities. These events are managed though use of a special use permit which authorizes the events on National Forest System lands. Events range from an adventure race, horseback trail trials, fishing tournament, to a motorcycle enduro. The Forests also provides special forest products, such as 131 ccf (cubic feet) of fire wood and 141 Christmas trees to individuals		

who desired them. The NNF&G contributed 52 ccf of wood to bio fuel production.

The NNF&G developed 62 news releases and stories on a variety of topics to local media markets. Forests and Grasslands employees are active in community groups such as the local Chamber of Commerce, tourism committees, economic development boards and a variety of other community based groups.

NNFG T&E

Spatial

T&E recovery areas identified in recovery plans

Monitoring Year

2010

Other

Results Summary

The Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands (NNFG) focuses management on three main threatened and endangered species identified in the LRMP. They are the black-footed ferret, blowout penstemon, and the American burying beetle. Other T&E species identified in the LRMP include the Western prairie-fringed orchid, whooping crane, Ute ladies' tresses and the mountain plover. The whooping crane and mountain plover are known to be incidental occurrences on the NNF, and the Western prairie-fringed orchid Ute ladies' tresses not known to occur on the NNFG. For these reasons, management for these species is not emphasized.

Each T&E species has a national recovery plan.

Management activities that are being implemented and are identified or closely related to recovery plan actions are discussed below:

Need for Action

Black-footed Ferret: Continue to conduct management activities described above.

Blowout Penstemon: Several actions from the recovery plan have not occurred: There has been no inventory of naturally occurring populations or of suitable habitats (GA-wide) for reintroduction sites since 1995. Because of successful reintroduction efforts, new inventories should be conducted. In addition, it is not clear that management plans for each population have been established and implemented. A general strategy and management plan should be developed in cooperation with the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

American Burying Beetle: Continue to conduct management activities described above.

Follow-up

Conduct blowout penstemon and Western prairie fringed orchid surveys (Bessey and McKelvie GAs) within the next 5 years. Coordinate with partners to develop a blowout penstemon strategy and management plan (including monitoring protocol) within the next 2 years. Report current penstemon monitoring activities in 2012 and report annually.

Black-footed Ferret: A revised black footed ferret recovery plan is under review at this time.

However, the current recovery plan is still in effect. The Wall Ranger District is implementing actions to support ferret recovery. Specific items outlined in the plan that are being addressed include:

1. The Conata Basin is home to one of the largest populations of black-footed ferrets that contribute to the overall success of the program and delisting goals.
2. Managing prairie dog populations and distributions for black-footed ferrets.
3. Managing and surveying for plague.
4. Education through talks and National Grasslands Visitors Center display.
5. Monitoring ferrets to include annual census surveys and refining existing population models.
6. Providing wild-born black-footed ferrets for translocation to other sites.
7. Enforcing all laws protecting established populations.

The Conata Basin has served as a destination for researches and much of what we know about black-footed ferrets has been through research conducted in the Basin since 1996. Research items of note include black-footed ferret habitat selection, movements, dispersal, prairie dog interactions and plague.

Blowout Penstemon: The Forest Service and the University of Nebraska have joined forces to implement several of the actions called for in the recovery plan: establishing new populations and conducting research to determine the life history, minimum viable population parameters, and management criteria. The Forest Service has continued to

Western Prairie Fringed Orchid: An intensive inventory of possible habitats at McKelvie and Bessey would be appropriate to determine presence of this species and the need to monitor the threats to those populations. Surveys would be best during years when soil moisture is best for flowering. The NGPC personnel is

interested in assisting with surveys.

protect and monitor introduced populations.

American Burying Beetle: The American burying beetle (ABB) was listed as endangered in July of 1989, and the recovery plan for this species was completed in 1991. The Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands (NNF&G) has implemented several aspects of the ABB recovery plan including the following:

1. Conducted searches for additional populations
 - o Bessey Geographic Area (BGA) (2003)
 - o McKelvie Geographic Area (MGA) (2004)
 - o Pine Ridge Geographic Area (PRGA)(2008-2009)
 - o Oglala Geographic Area (OGA)(2008-2009)
2. Conduct Studies
 - o Dobesh Masters Research 2004-2006 (BGA)
 - o Nebraska State-wide ABB Population Study 2005 (BGA & MGA), UNL research 2010 (PRGA, OGA, BGA & MGA), includes all USFS ABB data from 2003 to the present sent to UNL for mapping and generating computer models. USFWS has been involved in this process.
3. Managing and Protecting Existing ABB
 - o Clearing project areas of ABB (trapping and relocating individuals) prior to project implementation 2007-present (BGA)
 - o All projects on the Bessey Ranger District are reviewed to protect the ABB 2003-present (BGA & MGA)
 - o Entered all ABB captures on the NNFG
4. Characterize Habitat at all Known Localities
 - o Natural Heritage reporting for all captured ABB from 2003-present (BGA & MGA)
 - o Dobesh Masters Research 2004-2006 (BGA & MGA)

5. Education Program
 - o Presentation given to a volunteer group at the Whitetail Campground (2004)
 - o Dobesh thesis defense (2007)
 - o Presentation to a class at Chadron State College (2009)
 - o Attended an national ABB workshop in Kearney, NE (2010)

Western Prairie Fringed Orchid: It should be noted that although the western prairie fringed orchid is not known to occur on the NNFG, it is believed that this species could be found at the Bessey and/or McKelvie Geographical Areas. The recovery plan says there are no

NNFG Outputs

Spatial

Administrative unit-wide

Monitoring Year

2010

Other

Results Summary

There is no correlation between the outputs identified in the LRMP to the methods of accomplishment reporting conducted by the NNFG for annual reporting. The Forests Service no longer utilizes the Management Attainment Report (MAR) reporting system. Currently, the Forest Service utilizes a variety of methods and databases to report annual accomplishments.

Although there is no current method to determine if outputs are being met at anticipated cost, it is believed that they are not.

In light of declining allocations, the need to prioritize work and increased cost associated with output production, the NNFG has lost significant purchasing power to accomplish the

Need for Action

There is a need to develop a correlation between the LRMP and the current accomplishment reporting systems so that outputs identified in the LRMP can be easily assessed.

Forest level reporting of accomplishments need to be in such a method that the NNFG can evaluate the outputs identified in the LRMP.

There is also a need to better define the cost associated with meeting the outputs identified

Follow-up

Develop a reporting process which incorporates outputs identified in the LRMP on the NNFG and reevaluate this question in 2011. It is not our belief that this action would not require an amendment to the LRMP at this time.

NNFG Wildlife (a)

Spatial

Administrative unit-wide

Monitoring Year

Results Summary

Need for Action

Follow-up

2010

Other

At the time of the LRMP 2001 Revision, visual obstruction readings (VOR) were conducted in the fall of the year across the planning unit. Fall readings were converted to spring VOR readings using a formula created by the NNFG employees for the Fort Pierre National Grassland (Spring VOR = (Fall VOR X 0.47) + 0.93). This formula provides an idea of what the potential spring nesting may look like; given a relatively mild winter. There has been no monitoring or research on the Districts comparing Fall VORs and Spring VORs and how that relates to nesting cover. Several Districts are conducting VORs in the spring and eliminating the need for Fall to Spring conversions.

For those Districts that conduct Fall VOR monitoring (Fall River and Ft. Pierre Ranger Districts), follow up VOR monitoring should be conducted the following Spring on the same transects to determine the relationship of Fall and Spring readings.

Develop a strategy and timeline in 2011 to conduct follow up Spring VOR comparisons. Begin implementation in 2012 and report results in 2017.

NNFG Wildlife (b)

Spatial

Administrative unit-wide

Monitoring Year

Results Summary

Need for Action

Follow-up

2010

Other

There have been less than 5 wells drilled on the NNFG since the LRMP began implementation. Current stipulations did not

Continue to apply current stipulations to new leases and Applications for Permit to Drill.

Continue to monitor well site areas.

NNFG MIS

Spatial

Administrative unit-wide

Monitoring Year

Results Summary

Need for Action

Follow-up

2010

Other

The Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands was legally required to designate management indicator species (MIS) during the development of the LRMP Revision. These species are used to reflect the impact of our management on a suite of plants and animals. For example, if our land management practices cause the population of an indicator species to decline, then it is assumed that the population trends of plants and animals that use similar habitat (i.e. the "associated species") will be similarly affected. The purpose of this monitoring question is to validate (or invalidate) that assumption, as well as to determine whether our current list of associated species is accurate and complete.

Two approaches should be used to address this monitoring question. First, correlations between monitoring data collected on the MIS and monitoring data (if any) collected on associated species should be reviewed. Second, an examination of scientific literature, as well as Forest Service field notes, and identifying any correlations, whether with species already designated as "associated" or not.

Examine and consider correlations described above in 2011. Report finding in 2012 reporting cycle.

CONCLUSION

The NNFG needs to make a priority the analysis of the existing available monitoring and evaluation data and incorporate the results of that analysis into the 2011 monitoring and evaluation report. Monitoring questions with an identified lack of data to properly evaluate the monitoring question need to be allocated resources to acquire the data, perform analysis of the data, and to report the findings in relation to the specific questions in the 2011 monitoring report. The NNFG monitoring team can assist in prioritizing data needs, identify appropriate protocols for data collection and perform the required analysis of the data. Until these analyses occur, there is no definitive means to evaluate the successfulness of meeting the goals and objectives identified in the 2001 LRMP.

The questions which have been identified for reporting on a five year and ten year interval need to be evaluated in the 2011 monitoring report. This would be consistent with LRMP reporting instructions and would put these questions back on the established timeline identified in chapter 4 of the LRMP.

When the LRMP was written the Forest Service utilized the Management Attainment Report (MAR) reporting system. Since this time, the Forest Service reporting system has changed and now includes a variety of databases and methods of reporting "outputs" and accomplishments. The NNFG will need to develop a correlation between existing methods of reporting and the older MAR or initiate a plan amendment that would better answer the Outputs question in chapter 4. In addition to this action, the NNFG needs to keep better unit cost figures as it relates to project planning, project implementation and monitoring cost in order to adequately answer this specific question.

Finally, it is recommended that the Environmental Coordinator develop a new process for preparing the annual monitoring report. The current database utilized for generating this report is cumbersome to use, lacks flexibility and does not allow for display of results in a variety of ways for our publics.

MONITORING TEAM MEMBERS

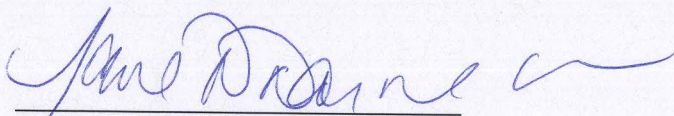
Core Team:

- Carla Loop – Environmental Coordinator
- Jeff Abegglen – Wildlife Program Manager
- Mark Lane – Rang Program Manager
- Lisa Heiser – Recreation Program Manager
- Matt Lucas – Forest Hydrologist (SCEP)
- Geri Mason – GIS Coordination
- Roger Keepers – Forester

CONCLUSION

Forests and Grasslands Supervisor Approval

I have reviewed and approve the 2010 Monitoring and Evaluation Report for the NNFG. I find that this report meets the monitoring requirements identified in the 2001 LRMP.



Forests and Grasslands Supervisor

