



# Boise National Forest



# Forest Highlights

**2007**

United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Intermountain Region  
Boise National Forest [www.fs.fed.us/r4/boise](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/boise) 208-373-4100

## A Summer of Record Wildfires

The Boise National Forest set an all time record with 237,664 acres burned in 2007, although the number of fires was below average. This record reflected the concern for a big fire year, due to a very low snow pack, and early snow melt. Low fuel moisture and high fire danger ratings were at record levels for much of the summer.

The Cascade Ranger District was hardest hit when five of its 23 lightning caused fires escaped initial attack. Early efforts were made by firefighters, and arriving incident management teams, to contain those escaped fires, but the dry conditions overwhelmed those efforts in most cases. The subsequent large fires were called the Monumental, Riorden, North Fork, Sandy and Yellow. These large fires eventually merged to become the Cascade Complex.

A July 17th lightning event ignited 48 new fires across the Forest, including those on the Cascade Ranger District. Another group of fires, the Middle Fork Complex burned 17,000 acres, but those fires were fully contained by August 17th. The 20,000 acre Trapper Ridge Fire near Lowman, a large Wildland Fire Use For Resource Benefit fire, was managed very successfully by a Fire Use Team.

Over the course of the summer, eight management teams dealt with the fires, thousands of firefighters, and community impacts. By early September, all remaining fires had grown together into one large complex - the Cascade Complex. The complex was declared contained on September 30 and controlled on October 31, 2007.

Protection of life, property and firefighter lives was very successful, with no private structures lost, no fatalities, and only a few Forest Service historic buildings lost. The support, and involvement of the communities and county officials was welcomed and much appreciated.



## Roaring River Culvert Replaced to Help Fish



The Roaring River Fish Passage Restoration Project replaced a major (15-ft diameter) culvert on National Forest System Road 255 with a bottomless arch. Cost of the project was approximately \$350,000.

The culvert had stopped up-stream migration to 4.5 miles

of spawning and early rearing habitat for bull trout, and 35 miles of a perennial stream for other aquatic organisms.

The 2003 Boise National Forest Land Resource Management Plan and 2002 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Bull Trout Recovery Plan identified the Roaring River sub-watershed and this culvert as the most critical limiting factor for enhancing bull trout habitat.



Removal of the barrier connected an isolated local population of bull trout (a threatened species), restoring the gene flow to that population and enhanced spawning opportunities. Roaring River is one of many Forest culverts being replaced.



## Repairs Completed at Danskin Boat Launch

The Boise National Forest, in partnership with the Boise Valley Fly Fishermen, the Southwest Idaho Resource Advisory Committee, USDI-Bureau of Reclamation, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, relocated and improved a boat ramp to provide safe access for both fishermen and non-motorized white water users near Danskin Creek on the South Fork Payette River.

The new site includes a concrete ramp, large parking area, double vault restroom, and new displays for the South Fork Boise River corridor.

With the Boise Valley Fly Fishermen partnership, a memorial was placed overlooking the river in honor of Ken McGee, the group's founding president facilitated who many partnership projects throughout the river corridor.

## Restoration of Lookouts

Major restoration work was completed in the summer of 2007 on three historic fire lookouts on the Emmett Ranger District.

The lookouts included Scott Mountain, Deadwood and Silver Creek. Scott Mountain and Silver Creek are actively staffed during the fire season and Deadwood Lookout is used as a recreational rental during the summer months.

The project completed critically needed maintenance, reduced a lead paint hazard, increased energy efficiency, and preserved the lookouts' historic integrity. The total project cost was \$58,000.



Before Photo — Scott Mountain



After Photo — Scott Mountain

## Lucky Peak Nursery Grows Sagebrush for Rehabilitation

The nursery is growing sagebrush for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for rehabilitation efforts near the Washington Hanford National Monument Project.

In addition, the Nursery processed the collection of sagebrush seed by volunteers last winter, preparing 3500 pounds of seed for aerial distribution over the Murphy Fire in the spring of 2008.

Conifer seedlings are also being grown at the nursery for National Forests across the West in the fire rehabilitation efforts. Seedlings will be ready for planting in spring of 2009.





## Wildland Fire Use Trapper Ridge Fire

The Trapper Ridge Fire was ignited on July 17, and eventually burned 20,159 acres making it the largest Wildland Fire Use for Resource Benefit (WFU) fire on the Forest to date.

This type of fire must be lightning-caused, within a designated area, and designed to benefit the areas ecology by allowing it to play its natural role in the ecosystem. The fire reduced thick fuels, and consumed dead and downed trees.

A Fire Use Management Team successfully managed this blaze using hand crews and retardant to prevent the fire from spreading to the north into the upper Lowman area and Highway 21.

## BAER Rehabilitation Begins

Fire recovery efforts, which began even as the fires burned, focused on much of the Cascade Ranger District part of the Emmett Ranger District.



With over \$4 million requested for "Burned Area Emergency Response," workers used helicopters to drop and spread 3,039 acres with straw mulch in the South Fork Salmon River and Johnson Creek watersheds. BAER projects also included replacing or removing culverts at several sites, repairing roads, stabilizing slopes and streambanks, repairing trails and bridges, repairing recreation sites and removed hazard trees.

The goal was to have mitigation measures in place prior to winter to reduce erosion.

Additional tree planting, and continued work to repair recreation sites, is planned in upcoming years.



## Lucky Peak Helibase Improves Ramp For Heavy Type 1 Lift Helicopter Access



## Fuel Reduction Near Pine and Featherville

With increased home building in this high fire prone area, Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management managers developed a fuel reduction project mostly along the major roadway near the communities. Project activities began in mid-summer of 2007. Approximately 205 acres were thinned with chainsaws.

Material suitable for firewood was limbed and left un-piled for citizens to remove with a free use firewood permit. This was an efficient and inexpensive means to reduce the level of slash.

Approximately 109 fire use permits were issued, with each permit being good for two cords of firewood. Wood not taken by woodcutters was piled and burned, amounting to about 25 acres. Remaining piles are planned for burning in 2008.

## Forest Botanist Receives Award

For six years, BNF Forest Botanist Edna Rey-Vizgirdas has developed a variety of unique Conservation Education programs ranging from snowshoeing and yoga for women, ethnobotany, art and nature, and of course, the ever-popular spring and summer wildflower walks. Her audiences have included all ages and ability levels.



In 2007, Edna was recognized for her outreach efforts by being named as the Intermountain Region's Gifford Pinchot Excellence in Interpretation and Conservation Education recipient.

The award was presented by Deputy Chief Gloria Manning at the National Association for Interpretation's annual conference in Wichita, Kansas.

# Forest Facts — Fiscal Year 2007

## Timber Outputs *Board Feet*

*Timber Sold (including sales sold from previous year's offers, and personal use firewood)*

Sawtimber and POL 13.4 million

### Timber Harvested

Sawtimber and POL 16.14 million

Personal Use Firewood 5,400 cords

Value \$67,500

### Christmas Trees

Individual 4,022 trees

Value \$40,220

### Timber Stand Improvement

Acres Thinned 6,209 acres

### Total Land Areas *Acres*

Gross Acreage 2,612,000

Private, State and Other 348,000

Inventoried Roadless 1,108,500

*Gross Includes all Ownerships*

### Fire Management

*Number / Acres Burned*

Person Caused 27 3,943

Lightning 86 342,569

Total 113 346,513

Abandoned Campfires 254

### Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program

*(WUI = Wildland Urban Interface Areas)*

WUI Acres Completed 6,829

Non-WUI Acres Completed 4,851

Total Hazardous Fuel Acres Treated  
11,680

### Wildland Fire Use

Total Acres Treated 18,856

### Roads *Miles*

National Forest System Roads 4,675

NFSR Roads New Construction 0

NFSR Roads Reconstruction 10.3

NFSR Roads Decommissioned 6.7

### Recreation Facilities

Trailheads 67

Campgrounds 82

Family 75

Group 6

Horse 1

Picnic Areas 5

Boating Sites 20

Cabins 16

Interpretative Sites 4

Developed Sites 190

Rec. Special Use Permits 163

Summer Trails 1,258 miles

Winter Trails 768 miles

### Human Resource Program

2007 Information Not Available (NA)

### Heritage Resources

2007 Information not available

### Range Management

Grazing Permittes 36

Allotments 75

Cattle Permitted 4,957

Sheep Permitted 19,300

Animal Unit Months (AUM'S) 45,397

*(AUM'S calculated using cow-calf 1.32 conversion factor.)*

Noxious Weeds Treated 4,955 acres

### Wildlife and Stream Habitat

Wildlife Habitat Restored 1441 acres

Stream Habitat Restored 19 miles

Fish, Wildlife and Botany Interpretive  
and Education Products 128



# Forest Finances — Fiscal Year 2007

Timber Receipts 54,701.79

Livestock Grazing Fees 45,456.61

Recreation Special Uses Fees 287,750.33

creation Admission and User 312,127.93

neral Fees 45,456.61

nd Use Fees 194,312.29

### scellaneous Receipts

ush Disposal Co-op deposits 51,608.82

arters (housing) 117,511.92

ads 157,809.01

### Payment to Counties

Ada 3721

Boise 867368

Elmore 64,5860

Gem 60968

Valley 1075130

Washington 78

### Acres

### Totals

6368.20

1,242,873.11

856,084.80

86,974.51

1,462,489.21

107.89

### Forest Expenditures

Total Forest Management 8,147,399.67

Total Fire 7,139,630.92

Total Construction 2,811,020.81

Total Cost Allocation—Admin 4,319,484.20

Total Trust Funds 1,288,183.80

Total Fee Demo 210,610.28

Total State & Private Forestry

1,274,891.08



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited basis apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

TO FILE A COMPLAINT OF DISCRIMINATION, write USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.