

INTRODUCTION

Monitoring is a key part of implementation. This *“Executive Summary of the Clearwater National Forest Monitoring & Evaluation Report for FY02”* provides information on the Forest’s monitoring activities. It follows the same format providing only a consolidation of the information available in the more detailed report. The current Forest Plan for the Clearwater National Forest will be kept up-to-date during the revision process. If you would like a copy of the entire report, please access our web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater/index.html>. If you need a paper copy of the report, please contact the:

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SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

ECONOMICS

Item No. 1 - Quantitative Estimate of Performance Output or Services

In the full Report, **Table 1: Comparison of Outputs and Activities with those Projected in the Forest Plan** lists outputs and activities occurring in FY02, along with the percent achieved compared with Forest Plan projections.

Item No. 17 - Document Cost of Implementation Compared with Plan Cost

In the full Report, **Table 2: Comparison Between Yearly Expenditures (in thousands dollars) and Forest Plan Projections (in 2002 dollars)** displays a cost comparison.

EFFECTS

Item No. 22 - Effects of National Forest Management on Adjacent Land and Communities

ROADLESS INITIATIVE

On December 14, 2001, interim direction became effective which delegated the authority to approve or disapprove road construction or reconstruction in inventoried roadless areas to the Chief of the Forest Service until a forest-scale roads analysis is completed and incorporated into each forest plan (several exceptions apply). With a few exceptions, the Chief also retains the authority to approve or disapprove timber harvest in inventoried roadless areas.

At this writing, this interim direction continues to guide the Forest’s work while permanent direction is crafted.

ROADS POLICY

In FY02, the Forest initiated work on a forest-wide roads analysis. (Note - The roads analysis was completed before the January 12, 2003, deadline.)

LYNX FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT

The Canada lynx, a rare, forest-dwelling cat, was listed as "*threatened*" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in March 2000. The public comment period was extended to December 10, 2001. At this writing, the environmental analysis has not been completed. A decision is expected some time in late 2003.

ELK HABITAT INITIATIVE

The Clearwater National Forest continued a focused effort to improve wildlife habitat in the North Fork Clearwater sub-basin. Forest restoration options in the 156,000-acre Middle Black (Middle North Fork and Upper North Fork-Black Canyon area) were presented in the *Middle-Black Draft Environmental Impact Statement* (DEIS). More than 300 comments were received in response to the issuance of the DEIS. (Note - In early FY03 a decision was issued.)

LEWIS & CLARK BICENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE

In FY02, the Forest continued planning to implement a permit system to manage use in the high elevation portion of the Lolo Trail corridor during the bicentennial years. This system will be implemented by the summer of 2003 and is designed to protect the rich cultural and fragile natural resources in the area. The Forest began publicizing the permit requirement and process in late FY02.

In addition, the Forest, the Clearwater-Snake Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee, and the Clearwater Economic Development Association took steps to implement a seven-county public safety plan, securing funding for some of the identified needs. The Forest completed a supplemental Fire Evacuation Plan for the bicentennial years.

Work continued on information and interpretation efforts related to the Bicentennial, with employees implementing components of an interpretive plan, developing text for new interpretive signs to be located along U.S. Highway 12 and completing a brochure regarding travel in the Highway 12 corridor. Construction continued on a new visitor center and rest stop at Lolo Pass. Dedication is scheduled for the spring of 2003.

RURAL COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Forest continues to work with local communities to secure funds through the Farm Bill's Rural Community Assistance program. In FY02, grants were awarded to the following:

- City of Orofino - \$1,969 to develop a brochure and signs describing Lewis and Clark sites.
- City of Pierce - \$3,585 to produce two signs: one identifies the Pierce Community Center and Pioneer Medical Clinic, and another welcomes visitors to the community of Pierce.
- City of Lenore - \$11,200 to renovate the Lenore Community Activity Center to prevent future flooding of the basement.
- Nez Perce Tribe - \$10,000 to enhance tourism during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial by cleaning up roadways and waterways along the Lewis and Clark Trail that pass through the Nez Perce reservation.

RECEIPTS TO COUNTIES

Local counties receiving payments for FY02 include:

▪ <i>Benewah County</i>	\$30,219
▪ <i>Clearwater County</i>	\$1,052,286
▪ <i>Idaho County</i>	\$843,975
▪ <i>Latah County</i>	\$282,781
▪ <i>Nez Perce County</i>	\$122
▪ <i>Shoshone County</i>	\$139,795

Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman recently appointed the following individuals to serve on the North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) which will work with the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests. The RAC recommends projects to the Secretary.

Projects approved in FY02 included:

- Palouse Noxious Weeds - \$18,000 for cooperative weed management involving the Clearwater National Forest and Latah and Clearwater Counties.
- Clearwater Bridge Armoring - \$22,500 for armoring bridges in the Clearwater Basin against erosion.

Item No. 23 - Effects of Other Agencies on National Forests

The Clearwater National Forest works together with many agencies. Key contacts include (but are not limited to) the following agencies:

<i>Nez Perce Tribe</i>	<i>Idaho Department of Fish and Game</i>
<i>Idaho Historic Preservation Office</i>	<i>Idaho, Latah and Clearwater County Sheriff's Offices</i>
<i>Idaho Department of Lands</i>	<i>Natural Resources Conservation Service</i>
<i>National Park Service</i>	<i>Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation</i>
<i>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</i>	<i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Dworshak Hatchery</i>
<i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i>	<i>National Marine Fisheries Service</i>
<i>Idaho Department of Commerce</i>	<i>Idaho Department of Transportation</i>

FIRE

FIRE SUPPRESSION

In FY02, the Forest had **90** fires which burned **472.7** acres of Forest lands.

AVIATION

The Grangeville Retardant Base was without a large air tanker in the 2002 fire season because of tanker accidents elsewhere in the nation early in the season. Two Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATs) were brought on in August and September. Retardant aircraft delivered a total of 10,430 gallons of retardant to fires on the Clearwater National Forest during the FY02 fire season, 4,160 gallons of which were from Grangeville Air Center (the closest area retardant base). The total retardant delivered was well below average.

Both Exclusive Use helicopters were dispatched to Regions 2 and 3 to assist with their fire season before starting their contracts here. Zone personnel were dispatched and linked up with our aircraft when our

contracts started and remained in Regions 2 and 3 until fire conditions here warranted their return. Clearwater/Nez Perce Forest Fire Zone, helicopters flew a total of 294.6 hours on the Zone, 88.3 hours of which were on the Clearwater.

WILDLAND FIRE USE

This management option was selected for eight fire starts in FY02, seven within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and one within the Clearwater Fire Management Unit. These fires burned a total of 303 acres. A grand total of 696 acres were burned in FY02 including acres burned in October of 2001 from fires that started in FY01. The Forest had seven fires that met the criteria for wildland fire use in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness unit. During the 2002 fire season, one fire met the prescriptive and risk criteria and burned a total of 10 acres.

FUELS REDUCTION

Brush disposal trust funds were used to treat 844 acres of activity fuels resulting from timber harvest. These treatments significantly reduced the fuels backlog on the Forest. An additional 293 acres were treated in October due to the extended dry fall weather.

Hazardous fuel treatment dollars were used to treat 4,040 acres; our FY02 target was 3,700 acres. Two large-scale landscape burns were a part of the accomplishment for FY02. The North Fork accomplished 2,000 acres on the Roaring Creek project and the Powell District burned 340 acres on their Beaver Ridge project. The Palouse District accomplished about 1,100 acres of hazardous fuels treatments, approximately 1/3 of which were mechanical treatments.

Due to the extended dry fall weather in October, the Lochsa District was able to burn a 700-acre block in the East Bridge area.

AIR QUALITY

Prescribed burning was accomplished during the spring and fall burning periods. Smoke management from prescribed fires was managed within the guidelines of the North Idaho Airshed Group. No specific air quality monitoring was done within the Forest.

FISHERIES

PACFISH

No formal review by the PACFISH Implementation Review Team was conducted on the Forest in 2002. Additional project monitoring was scheduled in 2002, but the selected projects were not completed or time constraints prevented the reviews; the reviews were rescheduled for 2003.

INFISH

The Forest also completed a review of one road reconstruction project and two timber harvest units on the ongoing Full Quartz Salvage Timber Sale, and one timber harvest unit within the completed Laundry Salvage Timber Sale within North Fork Clearwater River drainage to determine compliance with Forest Plan direction as amended by INFISH. Similar to the PACFISH reviews, additional project monitoring was scheduled in 2002, but the selected projects were not completed or time constraints prevented the reviews; the reviews were rescheduled for 2003.

Item No. 8 - Water Quality and Stream Condition for Fisheries and Non-Fisheries Beneficial Uses

Information on Non-Fisheries Beneficial Uses is included in the **Soil And Water** section under **Item 8**.

Stream Inventory Targets ♦ The miles of anadromous and inland streams inventoried in 2002 were down substantially from 1990-2000; only 6.9 miles of stream were inventoried. The inventories included the collection of stream channel, fish habitat and fish population information.

Improvement Targets ♦ Project targets in 2002 focused on riparian protection regarding grazing, fish passage improvement projects and road obliteration. Approximately 30 miles (54 acres) of fisheries habitat improvement were completed.

Stream Temperature Monitoring ♦ The stream temperature-monitoring program was expanded in 2002 to approximately 300 sites across the Forest. This includes the 251 sites on 225 streams that were monitored during the summer of 2002 and additional multi-year units deployed during 2002 to collect 2002, 2003 and/or later years. This was a moderate increase over the 230 sites monitored during 1998-1999 and a substantial increase over the budget-reduced number of sites during 2000-2001

Fish Population and Habitat Monitoring ♦ Fish population numbers and/or stream substrate conditions were monitored in selected drainages in the Lolo Creek, Lochsa River and North Fork Clearwater River watersheds. Personnel from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Nez Perce Tribe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality also monitored fish populations within various streams on the Forest; these monitoring projects were coordinated with the Forest programs to avoid unnecessary duplication of monitoring efforts.

Item No. 31 - Anadromous Fisheries

POTLATCH RIVER WATERSHED

No natural or anthropogenic events occurred on USFS lands in the Potlatch River watershed during 2002 that caused changes to the aquatic environment. Fences on ten permanent riparian enclosures (six along the East Fork Potlatch River, one on Ruby Creek, one on the East Fork Big Bear Creek, and two on ponds within the Corral Creek watershed) were maintained in 2001. Since the stream inventories of all fish-bearing streams within the Potlatch River drainage on National Forest System lands have been completed within the last ten years, no additional surveys were scheduled for 2002. Stream temperature monitoring was conducted at 15 sites on 10 streams in the Potlatch River drainage in 2002 to evaluate habitat conditions for steelhead trout. Steelhead redds have been monitored in the East Fork Potlatch River since 1992 twice a year (April and May). These surveys have shown a consistently low number of redds from three to eight. During the 2002 spawning period, no surveys were completed due to high stream flows.

LOLO CREEK WATERSHED

No natural or anthropogenic events occurred in the Lolo Creek watershed during 2002 that caused changes to the aquatic environment. Fence maintenance on existing riparian enclosures was completed in 2002 and the Forest concentrated fish enhancement efforts on two culvert replacement projects. Due to budget constraints, Eldorado Creek and Musselshell Creek resurveys that were scheduled in 2002 were not completed. Stream temperatures were monitored throughout the summer at 21 sites on 19 streams and an additional five new sites were established and five former sites reactivated during 2002.

As part of the continuing Idaho Supplemental Studies being conducted in the Lolo Creek drainage, the Nez Perce Tribal Fisheries Department completed the 2002 Lolo Creek spring Chinook spawning ground surveys. These surveys were conducted in the main stems of Lolo, Eldorado, Musselshell and Yoosa creeks.

OROFINO CREEK WATERSHED

No natural or anthropogenic events occurred in the USFS drainages within the Orofino Creek watershed during 2002 that caused changes to the aquatic environment. Stream surveys that were scheduled for Orofino Creek in 2002 were not completed due to budget constraints.

MIDDLE FORK CLEARWATER RIVER WATERSHED

No natural or anthropogenic events occurred in the USFS drainages within the Middle Fork Clearwater River watershed during 2002 that caused changes to the aquatic environment. Since the stream inventories of all fish bearing streams within the Middle Fork Clearwater River drainage have been completed on National Forest System lands during 1996, no additional habitat surveys were scheduled for 2002. Stream temperatures were monitored throughout the summer.

LOCHSA RIVER WATERSHED

No natural or anthropogenic events occurred within the Lochsa River watershed during 2002 that caused changes to the aquatic environment. Aquatic funds supplemented Forest funds from the engineering and watershed and BPA funds from the Nez Perce Tribe to complete road decommissioning activities in several drainages and six culvert replacement projects in the upper Lochsa River area. The Nez Perce Tribe provided the Forest funds to replace the culverts. Due to the Crooked Fire in 2000, resurveys were completed on Rock Creek and Haskell Creek in 2002. Stream temperatures were monitored throughout the summer at 89 sites on 73 streams within the Lochsa River drainage.

Item No. 32 - Inland Fisheries

NORTH FORK CLEARWATER RIVER WATERSHED

No natural or anthropogenic events occurred in the USFS drainages within the North Fork Clearwater River watershed during 2002 that caused changes to the aquatic environment. The major activity within the North Fork Clearwater River drainage involved the road decommissioning project in the upper North Fork Clearwater River drainage. One temporary electric fence that was installed in 1996 around the sediment trap in the upper Elk Creek basin was maintained in 2002. Due to budget constraints, only 4.5 miles of the 50 miles of stream scheduled for inventory were completed in 2002. Stream habitat and fish population surveys planned for Deception Gulch in 2001 were scheduled and completed via contract in 2002. The Forest started a substrate-monitoring project in lower Moose Creek (mouth upstream to Little Moose Creek) to determine trends of sediment (% fines by depth) in Westslope cutthroat trout spawning areas.

In 2002, stream temperatures were monitored at 112 sites on 100 streams within the North Fork Clearwater River drainage. Due to budget constraints, fish population monitoring stations were only monitored via snorkeling at four sites in the upper Cayuse Creek in conjunction the IDFG/USFS bull trout study. Bull trout spawning surveys were conducted on 12 streams within the North Fork Clearwater River drainage. IDFG snorkeled 18 sites on eight streams.

PALOUSE RIVER DRAINAGE

No natural or anthropogenic events occurred on USFS lands in the Palouse River watershed during 2002 that caused changes to the aquatic environment. No major watershed restoration activities (i.e., road obliteration, new riparian fence construction, instream restoration projects) were scheduled in 2002. Stream temperatures were monitored throughout the summer at ten sites on nine streams within the Palouse River drainage to evaluate habitat conditions for brook trout and rainbow trout. Due to the absence of sensitive fish species (i.e., steelhead trout, westslope cutthroat trout, bull trout, spring chinook salmon), fish population monitoring is not scheduled on an annual basis within the Palouse River drainage; no monitoring was conducted in 2002.

Heritage Program

Item No. 4 - Protection and Condition of Heritage Resource Sites

A total of 56 projects/sites were stabilized, rehabilitated, monitored, or protected. Much of the monitoring done in FY02 was done as part of deferred maintenance activities where the current condition of sites documented and the cost to bring the sites up to a minimal standard of protection was assessed.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Clearwater National Forest contains the largest segment of the overland route taken by the Corps of Discovery during 1805 and 1806, and several significant heritage resources are located in the vicinity of the route, including campsites used by Lewis and Clarke. In January 2002, the Forest Supervisor, Zone Archaeologist, Law Enforcement Officer, and the Bicentennial Coordinator visited Washington D.C to conduct briefings on the preservation of significant heritage resources during the upcoming Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. Clearwater personnel briefed the Chief and his staff, Undersecretary of Agriculture Mark Rey, and the House and Senate Bicameral Committee on the importance of these resources and efforts to preserve them during the upcoming event. The Forest has been involved in identifying and protecting these sites in advance of the anticipated increases in recreation use and potential for vandalism during the bicentennial event.

A series of public lectures were also presented as part of the Heritage public interpretation program at a variety of venues that included Washington State University, University of Idaho, local grade schools and local civic organizations. The topics presented ranging from Lewis and Clark to aboriginal and Euro-American settlement systems.

LANDS

Item No. 12 - Land Ownership Adjustments

During FY02, the Forest completed the purchase of 776.47 acres from Plum Creek Timberlands. This is the first of a four-phase transaction involving Plum Creek lands. The purchases and trail easement acquisitions are in support of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. Dollars appropriated for Phases 1, 3 and 4 are intended for the fee purchase of Plum Creek lands while in Phase 2 the Forest will be acquiring Lewis and Clark Trail easements across Plum Creek fee lands. These transactions are taking place on the Powell Ranger District. Phase 2 is scheduled for completion by June 2003 while Phase 3 is scheduled for completion by July 2003. If money is appropriated, Phase 4 will be completed in FY04.

The *PITS EXCHANGE/BOISE FRONT EXCHANGE* involving approximately 3,052 acres of Federal land and approximately 3,114 acres of non-Federal lands, has been identified. This is scheduled to be a FY04 legislated land exchange.

The *BROWNS MEADOW LAND EXCHANGE* involves Federal land on the Palouse Ranger District. All parcels have been cruised and appraised. The EA is complete and available for public review and comments. Completion of this exchange is expected in August 2003.

Minerals

Item No. 15 - Minerals Prospecting and Development

A total of 98 operations were processed on the Forest during FY02. Of these, 85 were non-bonded, non-energy operations; 13 were bonded non-energy operations. All 13 bonded non-energy operations were administered to standard.

LOCATABLE MINERALS

The only significant locatable mineral mined from the Forest is gold. An estimated 73 ounces of gold were mined from the Forest during FY02. The value of this amount of gold would be approximately \$21,900 at an average gold price of \$300/oz.

COMMON VARIETY MINERALS

The Forest provided mineral materials for road surfacing to county and state agencies, for national forest roads and for use in private industry. Forest records show that 10,005 tons of materials were produced from national forest lands in FY02 with an estimated value of \$2,501.

Item No. 36 - Minerals Resource Availability

The Clearwater National Forest consists of a total of 1,825,318 acres. Of these acres, 259,167 (approximately 14%) are in the Clearwater portion of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and are withdrawn from mineral entry. In addition to wilderness, the Forest currently has 52 individual sites withdrawn from mineral entry. This figure has remained the same since FY94.

RANGE

Item No. 6 - Livestock Forage Available, Range in Good Condition Per Established Allotments

There are 17 cattle allotments on the Forest (14 on the Palouse Ranger District and 3 on the Lochsa Ranger District) that have 35 individual permittees. One cattle allotment was inactive this year. There were 1,420 cattle (cow/calf pairs) permitted to graze on the Forest. This amounted to approximately 6,397 head 0months (HMs) in FY02. An HM is one month's use and occupancy of the range by one animal. There were also 416 horses permitted to graze on the Forest in 2002. These numbers reflect the permitted animals on cattle allotments and Outfitter and Guide Permits and do not include animals associated with recreational visitors.

NEPA was completed on the Purdue Creek Allotment in 2002 via the West Fork EIS. The Record of Decision was signed on January 10, 2002, by Forest Supervisor Larry Dawson.

Noxious weeds were treated along roadways in the Palouse District Allotments. In addition, Scotch Broom was sprayed in portions of the Potlatch Creek Allotment and Mat Grass was treated twice in the West Fork/Moose Creek Allotment.

Recreation

Item No 2: Wide Spectrum of Recreation Opportunities

DEVELOPED AREA USE

Fees collected in FY02 increased about 17 percent at developed campgrounds. The number of visitors to campgrounds, as reported on their fee envelopes, totaled approximately 20,375.

Recreation Use And Fees Collected*	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02
Recreation Use (M Visitor Days)	1158	1681	1808	1600	1328	1347	1576
Fees Collected	\$63,330	\$85,572	\$96,763	\$85,907	\$95,347	\$96,664	\$113,760
Recreation Use Change from Previous Year (%)	+0%	+35%	+13%	-11%	-17%	+1.5%	+17%

The following is a list of projects in FY02:

- Construction continued on a multi-year project to reconstruct the Lolo Pass Visitor Center. This project was completed by the fall of 2002 with a grand opening scheduled for June 2003.

FEE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

Revenue from the fee demonstration program continued to play a vital role in providing valued added products and services to Forest visitors.

Item No. 14 - Off Highway Vehicle Use Impacts

COMPLAINTS AND CONFLICTS BETWEEN USER GROUPS

Observation of recreation activity on the Forest indicates that use of OHVs continued to increase in FY02. OHVs are routinely observed on most Forest roads. Although most use occurs on roads, a significant amount of OHV use on trails and off roads has been observed, in some instances, in violation of restrictions.

Complaints from Forest visitors continue to be received, particularly with respect to use of OHVs on trails in the Great Burn roadless areas.

Actions taken in response to complaints included increased visits by Forest administrative and law enforcement officials to confirm reported use, identify points of entry, and installation of signing found to be inadequate in 2001. An additional summer position devoted primarily to monitoring OHV use on the North Fork and Powell Ranger Districts was staffed in 2002.

Emphasis in 2002 was placed on ensuring that restrictions on use of OHVs are adequately signed and increased monitoring by law enforcement personnel. All trails in the Great Burn area on which motorized use is restricted were signed in 2002.

The lawsuit filed in 2000, suing for elimination of vehicles over 40 inches wide on the Clearwater and the Bitterroot National Forests was completed with determination by the court that no additional restriction of OHV was required to comply with the Forest Plan on the Clearwater National Forest.

CHANGES IN TRAIL AND CAMPSITE CONDITIONS AT FISH LAKE

Monitoring of OHV activity on the trail to Fish Lake and at the lakeside campsites continued in FY02 with one or more visits to the lake during the July 4th through Labor Day holidays. Three incidents of off trail activity in violation of restrictions were observed in 2002.

RESOURCE DAMAGE AND INCIDENTS OF UNAUTHORIZED CONSTRUCTION OF A TRAIL

Resource damage to trails and other resources resulting from motorized use is still considered to be minimal and relatively easily corrected though concerns over the effects of OHV use are increasing - particularly on the Palouse Ranger District. Incidents of unauthorized creation of OHV trails by cutting vegetation and repeated use of a route continue to occur throughout the Forest, and particularly in the North Fork of the Palouse River drainage. There have also been incidents of widening of Forest system trails by OHV users. As these incidents are found they are evaluated and action taken to deter further use.

RESPONSE TO DEMANDS FOR OHV OPPORTUNITIES

The Forest reviewed all trails in the Forest transportation system for suitability of OHV travel in FY01. Trails suitable for travel with OHVs will be designated in the Forest Access Guide as permitting travel with OHVs less than 50 inches in width. Use of trails not listed as *"Open"* for use with OHVs is described in the 2002 Access Guide as *"Prohibited"* or *"Restricted"*.

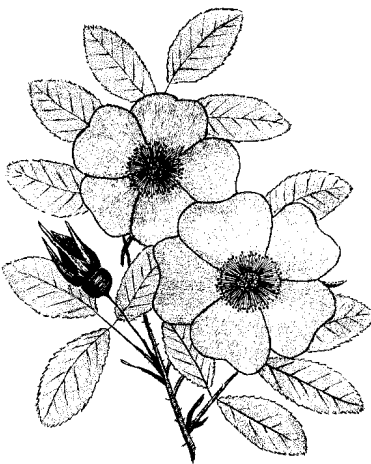
One outcome of these discussions on the Palouse Ranger District is a proposal to "create" a designated, signed system of OHV routes utilizing existing roads, trails and new trails that will provide an estimated 100 mile system of connected loop riding opportunities on federal, state and private lands.

An OHV system of approximately 30 miles of loop routes following existing and abandoned roads was completed in the Orogrande Creek drainage of the North Fork Ranger District in 2001. The project was funded cooperatively with State OHV grant and federal monies. Construction of a second similar system (Deception/Cedars OHV trail) began in 2002 in the upper area of the North Fork Clearwater River drainage with completion anticipated in 2004.

RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS

Fenn Mountain and Rhodes Peak are in application process for official designation.

During FY02 two reports were prepared addressing Research Natural Area issues. The first report authored by Dr. Fred Rabe entitled: "Established and Proposed Research Natural Area Streams in the Clearwater National Forest" was prepared in April 2002. The second study entitled: "An analysis of alternatives for expanding Lochsa Research Natural Area" was conducted to evaluate options to accommodate a proposed trail construction project on Trail 481. These two studies are available upon request.



RESEARCH NEEDS

Item No. 24: Research Needs

There were no research projects initiated on the Clearwater National Forest in FY02.

RIPARIAN AREAS

Item No. 10 Riparian Area Condition

In 2002, the Forest measured channel geometry and instream sediment at 32 streams across the Forest. Table 1 lists these monitoring sites. Data collected at each site may be obtained by contacting the Forest Hydrologist at the Supervisor's Office.

Table 1. Channel Morphology Sites - 2002.

Basin	Stream	Beneficial Use	Activities
Palouse River (17060108)	North Fork of the Palouse River	Brook Trout	Mining
	Big Sand Creek	Brook Trout	Timber Harvest
	East Fork of Meadow Creek	Brook Trout	Timber Harvest
	Wepah Creek	Brook Trout	Wepah-Pup Timber Sale
	Blakes Fork	Brook Trout	White Pine Timber Sale
Lochsa River (17060303)	Lochsa River 2	Steelhead Trout	Timber Sales
	Lochsa River 13	Steelhead Trout	Timber Sales
	Lochsa River 25	Steelhead Trout	Timber Sales
	Lochsa River 52	Steelhead Trout	Timber Sales
	Lochsa River 58	Steelhead Trout	Timber Sales
	Badger Creek (below Trib CC)	Cutthroat Trout	Road Obliteration
	Badger Creek (above Trib CC)	Cutthroat Trout	Road Obliteration
	Badger Creek Trib CC	Cutthroat Trout	Road Obliteration
Clearwater River (17060306)	Potlatch River II	Rainbow Trout	Timber Harvest and Grazing
North Fork of the Clearwater River	North Fork NO1-1	Cutthroat Trout	Timber Harvest
	North Fork NO1-9	Cutthroat Trout	Timber Harvest
	North Fork NO2-3	Cutthroat Trout	Timber Harvest
	North Fork NO2-5	Cutthroat Trout	Timber Harvest
	North Fork NO3-1	Cutthroat Trout	Timber Harvest
	North Fork NO3-4	Cutthroat Trout	Timber Harvest
	North Fork NO4-1	Cutthroat Trout	Timber Harvest
	North Fork NO4-4	Cutthroat Trout	Timber Harvest
	North Fork NO5-1	Cutthroat Trout	Timber Harvest
	North Fork NO6-3	Cutthroat Trout	Timber Harvest
	North Fork NO6-9	Cutthroat Trout	Timber Harvest
	North Fork NO7-2	Cutthroat Trout	Timber Harvest
	North Fork NO8-5	Cutthroat Trout	Timber Harvest
	North Fork NO8-7	Cutthroat Trout	Timber Harvest
	North Fork NO9-1	Cutthroat Trout	Timber Harvest
	North Fork NO10-1	Cutthroat Trout	Timber Harvest
Moose Creek (Mouth)	Cutthroat Trout	Mining	
	Deception Gulch	Cutthroat Trout	Road Obliteration

ROAD DECOMMISSIONING PROGRAM

In FY02, 40.4 miles of road were decommissioned at a cost of \$10,000 per mile. This cost includes equipment, materials, labor and project administration and inspection. The Nez Perce Tribe contributed funding and labor under a Watershed Restoration Partnership for the decommissioning of 27.2 miles on the Powell Ranger District.

Year	Reconstruction (Miles)	New Construction (Miles)	Decommissioning (Miles)	Intermittent Service (Miles)
1997	7.6	1.0	52	8.2
1998	85.3	1.1	134	8.6
1999	19.8	1.0	83.5	10.6
2000	33.1	8.6	47.4	4
2001	11.6	0	64	8.3
2002	0.0	0.1	40.4	3.0
TOTAL	755.9	235.1	458.8	47.1

The monitoring program on the Clearwater National Forest is designed primarily as a feedback loop to the road decommissioning program to ensure that the goals of the program are being met. The 2002 results indicate that most of the problems with surface erosion and small mass failures are associated with cross drain channels. In the future, we will focus more emphasis on techniques to lessen these problems.

ROADS

Item No. 13: Miles of Road Open/Restricted

Miles Of Restricted And Open Roads

District	Restricted		Method Of Closure				Open
	Yearlong (miles)	Seasonal (miles)	Gates	Guardrail	Earthen Barrier	Posted: Sign Only	Year-round, weather permitting
Pierce	372	176	140	69	49	37	552
Palouse	177	447	74	41	71	34	308
North Fork	443	119	67	42	135	24	580
Lochsa	259	40	80	53	45	18	113
Powell	411	84	44	48	129	17	349
TOTAL	1,662	866	405	253	429	130	1,902

SCENIC RESOURCES

Item No. 3: Visual Quality Objectives

A total of three timber sales of varying sizes were completed and closed out in FY02.

Fuzzy Fir Timber Sale is located near the North Fork Clearwater River along Road 250. Road 250 is not designated as a critical visual travel corridor and has a *Very Low* SIO (*VQO of Maximum Modification*). The sale has several shelterwood and regeneration units which are designed to appear natural in the existing landscape and most were harvested using a helicopter. All units exceed the SIO of *Very Low*.

Dutchman Salvage Sale is located on the Lochsa Ranger District. All units meet visual quality objectives.

Wepah Pup Timber Sale is located between Wepah and Strychnine Creeks of the Palouse Ranger District. The sale has shelterwood, regeneration and Ponderosa Pine restoration units which are designed to appear natural in the existing landscape with screening vegetation retained between the units and the trail. All units meet the SIO of *Moderate*.

There were several prescribed fires on the Clearwater National Forest in FY02. All were small, with no significant impact on the scenic integrity from any critical viewpoints.

Currently, the Forest is completing a number of road decommissioning projects. It is anticipated that the work will rehabilitate the scenic quality of the area in addition to improving watersheds.

Additional information regarding effects on scenery of other FY02 management activities is available at the Supervisor's Office.

SOIL AND WATER

Item No. 8 Water Quality and Stream Condition for Fisheries and Non-Fisheries Beneficial Uses

The Forest processed 2,669 suspended sediment, 2,686 turbidity, and 25 bedload samples in 2002. Bedload sediment samples were collected to determine the proportion of sediment moving as suspended and bedload in the watershed.

Of the 15 water quality stations where suspended sediment have been previously collected, only two had sediment levels higher in 2002 than the mean of all previous years. These two stations were Eldorado Creek and Cold Springs Creek.

At the 17 Clearwater National Forest water quality monitoring stations, 2,686 turbidity samples were collected and analyzed in 2002. One sample did not meet the above criteria.

Elk Creek Suspended and Bedload Sediment: A total of 137 samples of bedload have been collected at the Elk Creek gaging station between 1978 and 2002.

Lolo Creek Suspended and Bedload Sediment: A total of 141 bedload samples have been collected and analyzed at Lolo Creek between 1980 and 2002.

Item No. 9 Best Management Practice (BMP) Applications

In the summer of 2002, the Forest conducted an audit of the Idaho Forest Practices Act BMPs. There were 99 BMP observations in 2002 with an implementation and effectiveness rate of 98.0 and 99.0 percent, respectively. Sediment was observed delivered to streams once in 99 BMP observations. Many BMPs continue to have a 100 percent implementation and effectiveness rate.

The Best Management Practices in the 2002 BMP Audit were further analyzed by method of application: 1) Aerial logging systems, 2) Tractor logging, and 3) Road design, construction, and maintenance. The audit included 38 observations of BMPs where aerial logging systems were applied. The implementation and effectiveness rates were 97.4 percent and 100 percent, respectively. For tractor logging, 21 observations of BMPs occurred. The implementation and effectiveness rate was 100 percent. For roading, including the planning, construction, and maintenance of roads, 40 BMP observations occurred. The implementation and effectiveness rate was 97.5.

Item No. 11 Soil Productivity

In 2002, soil monitoring efforts focused on the effects of past activities in areas undergoing current planning. This included some sites associated with North Lochsa Face, Middle Black, WhiteWhite, Dog Marquette, and Brick Trout planning areas. The findings of this monitoring may be found individually in the environmental assessment associated with the individual project. In addition, the findings will be consolidated in next year's Annual Report.

TIMBER

In FY02, the Forest offered a variety of products, including sawlogs, cedar products, firewood, Christmas trees, and fence posts. These products were sold through two timber sales, 1,302 firewood permits, 609 Christmas tree permits, and 12 miscellaneous collection permits. A total volume of 5.8 million board feet (MMBF) was sold.



Table 1. Annual Timber Volume Offered, Sold, Cut and Under Contract (MMBF)

	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02
OFFER	30.2	23.9	8.1	20.1	5.8
SOLD	37.1	11.2	17.3	18.1	5.8
CUT	34.4	16.3	9.4	15.3	15.9
CONTRACT	77.5	58.4	55.5	57.4	49.3

Table 2. Total Acres of Timber Sold on the Forest by Harvest Method

	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02
Clearcut and Clearcut with Reserves	187	315	79	113	192
Shelterwood and Seed Tree	668	738	521	348	94
Final Removal	0	606	0	10	0
Selection	314	8	743	46	0
Intermediate Harvest	2,840	1,936	435	602	158

Table 3. Roaded and Unroaded Timber Sold

YEAR	ROADED SAWTIMBER	ROADED NIC*	ROADED TOTAL	UNROADED SAWTIMBER	UNROADED NIC*	UNROADED TOTAL	FOREST TOTAL
97	26	11	37	0	0	0	37
98	21	12	33	3	0	3	37.1
99	8.6	2.6	11.2	0	0	0	11.2
00	14.7	2.6	17.3	0	0	0	17.3
01	13.9	4.2	18.1	0	0	0	18.1
02	5.8	0	5.8	0	0	0	5.8

Table 4. Comparison of Forest Plan Projections With Annual Acreage of Timber Sales, 1988-2002

MANAGEMENT AREA	FOREST PLAN ACRES	FOREST PLAN VOLUME MMBF	TIMBER SALE AVERAGE ACRES	TIMBER SALE AVERAGE VOLUME MMBF
Timber Production	3,497	81.2	2683	36
Road/Trail Corridors	125	.8	36	.7
Big-Game Summer Range	3,099	62.5	31	.6
Big-Game Winter Range	1,007	23.6	416	7.1
Riparian Areas	3,516	5.2	61	1.1
Middle Fork Clearwater Scenic Corridor	0	0	19	.5

Item No. 18: Harvested Land Restocked Within Five Years

Table 5. 1997 Regeneration Harvests Adequately Restocked in Five Years

	Clearcut	Seedcut	Final	Selection	TOTAL
Number of Stands	45	30	15	2	92
Number of Acres	655	559	382	23	1,619
Stand Success %	82%	80%	100%	100	85%
Acres Success %	80%	81%	100%	100%	89%

Item No. 19 - Unsuitable Timberlands Examined to Determine if they have Become Suitable

All timberlands, both suitable and unsuitable are currently being inventoried as part of the Forest's compartment inventory program. Occasionally, unsuitable timberlands may also be examined in association with an analysis of a proposed project. Both types of examinations are directed at confirming and refining the suitability determinations made in the Forest Plan.

Item No. 20 - Validate Maximum Size Limits for Harvest Areas

Table 6. FY02 Even-aged Regeneration Harvests by Harvest Type and Size Category

District	Clearcut & Clearcut with Reserves		Seedtree & Shelterwood		Final Removal	
	#Stands <40 Acres	# Stands > 40 Acres	#Stands < 40 Acres	# Stands > 40 Acres	# Stands < 40 Acres	# Stands > 40 Acres
Pierce	10	0	5	0	6	0
Palouse	8	0	10	1	1	1
North Fork	0	0	2	0	0	0
Lochsa	0	0	0	0	0	0
Powell	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	18	0	17	1	7	1
Average Size	15 Acres	0 Acres	16 Acres	90 Acres	9 Acres	114 Acres

Item No. 21 - Insect and Disease Status as a Result of Activities

Regular aerial detection surveys were conducted on the Forest in FY02. Mapping of current tree mortality and damage occurred on all Districts.

Tree mortality caused by the Douglas-fir beetle decreased considerably in FY02.

Grand fir tree mortality caused by the fir engraver bark beetle is on the increase throughout the Clearwater region. In FY02 some 1,449 acres were reported with 2,056 recently killed trees.

There was also a decrease in the areas infested with balsam wooly adelgid in FY02.

At higher elevations, the western balsam bark beetle outbreaks in subalpine fir have lost momentum. The cumulative area infested has decreased 48 percent to 2,246 acres.

The area of defoliation on grand fir and Douglas-fir caused by the Douglas-fir tussock moth outbreak on the Palouse Ranger District subsided in FY02 to 4,253 acres. This represents a 63 percent decrease in the area of National Forest lands with aerially visible defoliation over that detected in FY01.

The hemlock looper, which is another defoliator that feeds on mountain hemlock, grand fir, and subalpine fir, greatly increased in FY02 primarily in the Upper Lolo Creek drainage. The area of aerially visible defoliation increased by 11-fold over FY01 and is estimated at 25,034 acres.

The decline of mature and old western redcedar caused by what is believed to be Armillaria root disease continues, resulting in trees with dead tops, dead branches, severely constricted tree crowns, and sporadic tree mortality. Monitoring will continue on this disease that continues to intensify.



TRAILS

Item No. 16 - Trail Management

Table 1: Miles of Trail Maintenance Accomplished*

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Level I	950	710	773.05	731	625	733
Motorized	487	398	298.4	364	254	342
Non-Motorized	463	320	474.65	367	371	391
Level II	208	123	67.5	45	32	53
Motorized	147	76	34.2	18	26	22
Non-Motorized	61	47	33.3	27	6	31
Level III	100	84	31.1	70	20	21
Motorized	49	32	2.4	54	10	9
Non-Motorized	51	52	28.7	16	10	12
TOTAL MAINTAINED	1,258	917	871.65	846	677	807
Motorized	683	498	335	437	290	373
Non-Motorized	575	419	536.65	409	387	434

* Wilderness trail accomplishments are located in the WILDERNESS Section of this Report

Table 2. Trail Maintenance

Trail Maintenance Labor Type	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Force Account Maintenance (includes flood repair in 96 & 97)	623	246	329.3	254	10	113
Volunteer Maintenance	258	308	227.5	327	130	140
Contract Maintenance	377	363	314.8	265	485	554

Table 3. 2002 Trail Reconstruction Program

Projects Begun But Not Completed	Trail No.	Miles
Powell Complex portion of L&C Trail	25	4
Deception OHV Trail	New	9
Surprise Creek	219	6
Eagle Mtn	206	5
Total Trail Reconstruction		

The trail construction/reconstruction program on the Forest was deferred in 2002 in order to reallocate funds for fire suppression costs nationally.

The current inventory lists 33 trail bridges on the Forest. Ten bridges were inspected and five bridges maintained in FY02. No bridge reconstruction or construction was funded in FY02.

In 2002, deferred maintenance surveys were completed on about 320 miles of trail.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

The scenic easement review board evaluated a variety of landowner proposals during five meetings in FY02. A developing trend is requests for rather large shops, barns and new homes. Once the structures are built they tend to look like something very different than a traditional shop or barn. Size and design tend to dwarf the presence of existing homes. This has led to increasing concerns that these buildings are not in keeping with the intent of the scenic easements.

All Lochsa Ranger District projects were in compliance with the River Plan.

Five outfitters operate on the Lochsa River under special use permit.

Low water levels in 2002 resulted in a shortened floating season on the Lochsa River resulting in fewer customers for the commercial outfitters. Issues, such as highway safety and congestion continue to raise hard questions for management.

The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests cooperated in sharing river rangers for the Lochsa patrol season.



WILDERNESS

Item No. 5: Wilderness

The Wilderness Program on the Clearwater National Forest was revitalized in 2002 with the arrival of two new permanent wilderness rangers to the Powell Ranger District. Based on Levels of Acceptable Change (LAC) and through monitoring and field inventory from field seasons, areas were identified where Forest Plan standards are not being met. Monitoring will continue in FY03 with the intent of the Forest Plan to move areas into compliance by their assigned Opportunity Class.

A Forest Service volunteer staffed the Elk Summit Cabin throughout the summer and early fall. The cabin was used as a wilderness portal and staff provided information on wilderness, minimum impact use, trail conditions, fires, etc.

SELWAY-BITTERROOT WILDERNESS VOLUNTEERS

The following information provides a synopsis of the volunteer efforts in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness (SWB) on the Clearwater National Forest during 2002.

Clearwater NF	
# Volunteers	30
# Volunteer Hours	1,268

A series of 4 volunteers monitored plane landings and made visitor contacts at the Fish Lake airstrip for 49 days throughout July, August and September. A volunteer from Missoula contributed 30 days to help rangers patrol two of the more popular destinations on the Clearwater's portion of the SBW and concentrated on disseminating the Leave No Trace message during his visitor contacts. Two volunteers contributed 68 hours assisting with routine maintenance at the Horse Camp Administrative site.

GREAT BURN VOLUNTEERS

The Great Burn Trail Monitoring Project utilized more than thirty-five volunteers who collectively logged hundreds of hours of trail monitoring on eighteen field outings. Volunteers observed and documented both the types and levels of motorized recreation taking place within the Great Burn, as well as user conflicts, illegal activity, resource damage, user-created trails, trail and trailhead conditions, signage, vandalism and the condition of campsites.

FIRE

There were 3 Wild Land Fire use (WFU) events on the Powell District's portion of the SBW. These included the Cedar fire (49.5 acres), Heslip fire (240 acres) and the Boundary fire (.1 acre).

RESEARCH

The following research is currently underway in the SBW:

- Lolo Pass Redevelopment Project: composed of multiple studies including, Impact of Highway 12 on Fishers and Evaluating Wolverine and Lynx movements: USDA FS, Rocky Mountain Research Station: 2000-2005.
- Temperature Monitoring for Fish Bearing Streams: Clearwater National Forest: 1999-2005

LAW ENFORCEMENT

In 2002, a total of 87 incidents were reported in the SBW and 3 violation notices were issued. A breakdown of incidents is provided below:

Summary of incident reports written in FY02:

Incident Reports: 8 Snowmobile use inside of wilderness (January)

*Violation Notices: 1 User constructed trail (September)

*1 Salting (September)

Reports in the wilderness area	
Number of law enforcement personnel	4
Number of incident reports written	8
Number of warning notices written	0
Number of violation notices written	2

AIRSTRIIP MONITORING

2002 Monitored Landings on Fish Lake Airfield

Clearwater NF	
# of Monitoring Days	52
Private	60
Administrative for Facility	0
Other FS Administrative	6
Fire	2
Outfitters	13
Total	81

Fish Lake airstrip was accessible from approximately July 1 to November 1 during 2002. A series of 4 volunteers monitored landings at the airstrip from July 11 through September 29. This was the first year that the airstrip was consistently monitored throughout the season. Flight patterns varied during the season; 1-3 landings per day were typical in July and August. During September, there were fewer days with landings, however the average number of landings on

those days increased to 5. Sixty of those flights were day use only. Base-line use has not yet been determined for this airstrip.

OUTFITTERS

	# Outfitters	# Client Use Days in Wilderness (Days actually used)	# Established Camps Used
Clearwater NF	7	1,162	21

Outfitters provide hunting, fishing, horse camping, day trips, backpacking, hiking, photography, and river rafting opportunities. They report client use days (numbers of clients x numbers of days) and pay fees accordingly.

SELWAY-BITTERROOT WILDERNESS TRAIL MAINTENANCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Table 1. Summary of Trail Maintenance Accomplishments by Opportunity Class in the selway-bitterroot wilderness area for 2002.

	OPPORTUNITY CLASS IV	OPPORTUNITY CLASS III	OPPORTUNITY CLASS II	TOTAL
Level I Maintenance	15.4	188.5	21.2	225.1
Level II Maintenance	7.5	19.6	0	27.1
Level III Maintenance	.5	3	0	3.5
TOTAL MILES MAINTAINED	23.4	211.1	21.2	255.7
Total Miles in Opportunity Class	23.4	259	27.9	310.3

Note: Total number of miles will change slightly from previous years as mileage is being verified as part of the Deferred Maintenance survey effort.

In FY02, The North Central Idaho and Twin Rivers Chapters of the Back Country Horsemen volunteered 184 hours to the wilderness program. The North Central Idaho Chapter helped clear trees and rehabilitate a campsite at Wind Lakes.

SNOWMOBILE USE MONITORING

Winter Season 2001/2002:

On September 24, 2001, the Clearwater National Forest received a Freedom of Information Act request to see any documentation that identifies illegal snowmobile use on the North Fork, Powell, and Lochsa Districts, and any monitoring on the subject. We responded with the information requested. Snowmobile activity on the Forest and the interest in it increases every year.

A new law enforcement officer stationed at Powell increased the frequency of our snowmobile monitoring and enforcement capabilities.

WILDLIFE

Item No. 7: Provision for Plant and Animal Diversity

A list of stands that have been tentatively identified as old growth habitat is available upon request.

Item No. 25 - Big-Game Habitat Improvement

About 6,000 acres of big game habitat was improved in association with the prescribed fire program in FY02.

In addition, approximately 200 acres of habitat was improved or enhanced associated with the harvesting of timber sales.

On the Clearwater National Forest, the *Middle Black and North Lochsa Face* projects were developed to improve the health of the ecosystem and habitat for elk on the North Fork and Lochsa Ranger Districts. Documentation and analysis was completed in FY02.

**Item Nos. 25-26: Population Trends of Management Indicator,
Threatened and Endangered Species**

No new plant or animal species were listed in FY02 that are found on the Clearwater National Forest lands.

APPEALS AND LITIGATION

PROJECT LEVEL APPEALS

The Forest received six new project appeals on six projects during FY02. The following table presents the status of these appeals.

Project Name	Appellant	Status	Major Appeal Issues
Spruce Moose Vegetation Management and Moose Lake Right-of-Way	Friends of the Clearwater, et al.	Decision Upheld by the Regional Forester	Wildlife Cumulative Effects Range of Alternatives Water Quality/Fisheries Old Growth/Vegetation
Wagner Gulch Salvage Timber Sale	Friends of the Clearwater, et al.	Decision Upheld by the Regional Forester	Old Growth Fisheries Landslides
West Fork Potlatch Ecosystem Management Project	Friends of the Clearwater, et al.	Decision Upheld by the Regional Forester	Purpose and Need Range of Alternatives Elk Habitat
Walton Salvage Timber Sale	Friends of the Clearwater, et al.	Decision Withdrawn by the District Ranger	Effect to Roadless Area Roadless Interim Directive Roadless Analysis
Wendover Staging Area and Trailhead	Friends of the Clearwater, et al.	Appeal Withdrawn by Appellant	Heritage Resources Connected Actions
Wendover Ridge Trail Improvement	Friends of the Clearwater, et al.	Decision Upheld by the Regional Forester	Heritage Resources Connected Actions Range of Alternatives

LITIGATION

The Forest was involved in one lawsuit during FY02. The following table presents the current status of this lawsuit.

Topic of Lawsuit, Plaintiffs and Defendants	Status	Major Issues
ATV Use on Recreation Trails Montana Wilderness Association, et al. v. Forest Service, et al.	Court decision in favor of Forest Service in November 2002	Use of all terrain vehicles on recreation trails in the general. In particular, the Clearwater and the Bitterroot National Forests failed to amend their Forest Plans to permit ATVs in excess of 40" to use recreation system trails.

IMPLEMENTED CHANGES

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

The Forest continued with the implementation of Ecosystem Management concepts and principles when designing projects. The Draft Supplemental EIS for the North Lochsa Face project was released in January FY02. The Final Supplemental and Record of Decision is to be released in early FY03.

In addition, the Draft EIS for the Middle-Black Ecosystem Management Project was released in November FY02. The Final EIS and Record of Decision is expected to be released in January 2003.

The Forest continues to make progress in completing Ecosystem Analysis at the Watershed Scale (EAWS). The EAWS for the Upper Palouse River is being finalized. The Upper Lolo EAWS and the Brushy Fork EAWS are slated to be completed this year.

FOREST PLAN REVISION

Forest Plan revision procedures are under review in conjunction with the new planning regulations. The early steps to get organized to revise the Clearwater National Forest Management Plan will begin in FY03. Efforts in FY02 largely centered on continuation of completing needed data layers in the Geographic Information System (GIS) and watershed analysis.

FOREST PLAN AMENDMENTS

THE ONLY FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT IMPLEMENTED DURING FY02 WAS THE FOLLOWING:

- ◆ **Amendment No. 28** ◆ Analysis indicates there may be a need to update the water quality standards for several creeks in this drainage. The need for change will be based on a site-specific analysis conducted by the Palouse Ranger District and documented in the *West Fork Potlatch Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision*.

PLANNED ACTIONS

1) Ecosystem Management Documents ◆ **CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT DOCUMENTS** - Procedures for updating the Forest vegetation and land system inventory databases are established and in use. Procedures for conducting broad-scale ecosystem analysis are better understood and being used to guide the Forest's ecosystem analysis projects.

Assessments for the Clearwater, the Lower and Upper North Fork Clearwater, and Palouse River sub-basins have been completed. The sub-basin assessment of the Lochsa River will be completed after other higher priority watershed analysis and NEPA projects are completed.

2) Steps in the Revision of the Forest Plan for the Clearwater National Forest ◆ The Clearwater National Forest is scheduled to start the revision of the current Forest Plan in FY03 (October 2002). Planning regulations to guide the revision are still under review by the Washington DC Office.

3) Amendments That May be Proposed to the Current Forest Plan ◆ Following are some of the proposed Forest Plan amendments that may be expected in FY03.

- **Amendment No. 20** ♦ Within the North Lochsa Face planning area, this proposed amendment would change the maximum number of acres that a wildfire is expected to exceed.
- **Amendment No. 26** ♦ Preliminary analysis indicates there may be a need to update the water quality standard for Bar Creek, Cub Creek, Deception Creek, Deep Creek, Game Creek, Grasshopper Creek, Ice Creek, Pack Creek, Station Creek and Sun Creek. In addition, the channel types may need change will be based on a site-specific analysis conducted by the Palouse Ranger District and documented in the *Middle Black Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision*
- **Other Amendments** ♦ Throughout 2003, several other project-specific amendments are expected to be identified as analysis continues or is initiated on other projects.

4) Projected Budget (Appendix C of Forest Plan) ♦ As implementation of the Forest Plan continues, actual dollars versus projected dollars are continually adjusted. Instead of amending the Forest Plan, Table 2 under "ECONOMICS" displays this information annually.

OTHER PLANNED ACTIVITIES

EFFECTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The Forest plans to complete the forest-scale roads analysis by January 12, 2003. ♦ An environmental document on the Lynx Forest Plan amendment will be issued in early 2003 with the projected time for a decision being late 2003. ♦ A decision will be issued on the Middle-Black Environmental Impact Statement in FY03. ♦ The Lolo Trail corridor permit system is planned to be implemented by the summer of 2003.
FISHERIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Monitoring in Lochsa River watershed area is scheduled to continue in 2003-2005. ♦ Additional monitoring in the Haskell Creek, Rock creek and Crooked Fork Creek area is planned in 2003. ♦ Habitat monitoring in the mainstem Lochsa River was rescheduled for 2003. ♦ Habitat monitoring in the Orofino Creek drainage was rescheduled for 2003. ♦ Population monitoring is planned for the lower Lochsa River area during 2003-2005. ♦ Additional habitat monitoring in the North Fork Clearwater drainage is scheduled for 2003. Changes in substrate and pool conditions will be documented during these surveys. ♦ Multiple surveys on these streams and other potential bull trout streams in the North Fork Clearwater drainage are scheduled for survey in 2003 in conjunction with IDF&G.
LANDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The Pits Land Exchange is scheduled for completion as a legislated land exchange in FY04. ♦ Completion of the Browns Meadow Land Exchange is expected in August 2003.
RECREATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Dedication of the Lolo Pass Visitor Center is scheduled for June 2003. ♦ Recreational use surveys begun in FY01 will continue thru FY03 with the results being available in FY04. ♦ Construction of the Deception/Cedars OHV trail began in FY02, will continue in FY03 with completion scheduled for FY04. ♦ Snowmobile activity in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness area will be monitored from the air in FY03.
RIPARIAN AREAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Road obliteration to eliminate unneeded roads in the Deception Gulch area is planned to continue in FY03. ♦ Monitoring of the Crooked Fire area will continue in FY03. ♦ Beginning in 2002 and continuing through 2003, an estimated 50 miles of road will be decommissioned in the Badger Creek watershed. Monitoring will continue each year through 2007.
ROAD DECOMMISSIONING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Effectiveness monitoring for use of brush blankets is planned for FY03.

