

***Selway Bitterroot Wilderness
2003 State of the Wilderness Report***

The **Selway Bitterroot Wilderness** spans the border of north central Idaho and western Montana. As one of the wildernesses established with the 1964 Wilderness Act, its 1.3 million acres lie within four National Forests and are managed by six ranger districts. The Clearwater NF manages the portion of the SBW that is part of the Lolo National Forest.

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THE RANGER'S PERSPECTIVE

With the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, and the 100th anniversary of the National Forest System in 2004 we can appreciate the value of public lands, the wilderness preservation system, and more specifically one of the gems of the system, the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Over the years people have predicted that the greatest value of wilderness lies in the future. As our population grows demands for connection with the natural world increase from a population yearning for a night with a sky full of stars and a free-flowing river singing them to sleep. Wilderness will continue to increase in value, so we owe future generations our best stewardship now.

In the Selway-Bitterroot we face a number of challenges, but in my perspective, the greatest is dealing with invasive species. The most obvious example is the infestation of Spotted Knapweed in the Wilderness. Some people may feel the war on knapweed is over, and knapweed won. I disagree. Much of the SBW is still free of weeds, in addition to knapweed there are other species that we have an opportunity to control; Yellow Star Thistle, Rush Skeletonweed, and Sulfur Cinquefoil are a few. Rolling back the knapweed invasion, and finding and eradicating new invasive species is a big job. We owe it to future generations to do our best. You will be hearing more about how and where weeds would be sprayed, or where weed-eating insects might be released. The idea of controlling weeds in wilderness, especially with chemicals, will raise some legitimate concerns. Once again I would make the case that, to do nothing would be unethical in doing our duty to future generations. We will need to put our efforts where they will have the greatest good. As an example we will likely target weeds in areas, and along trails, where they are likely to “hitchhike” to a weed free area in a rolled up tent or saddle bag.

With the other District Rangers and the Forest Supervisors, I look forward to engaging with many of you, in a way that we can say we have taken our responsibilities as wilderness managers seriously with an eye to the future of the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness Area.

Dave Campbell
District Ranger
West Fork District
Bitterroot National Forest

2003 SBW FIELD PRESENCE

Wilderness rangers, volunteers and other personnel on each Forest monitor a variety of resource conditions and types of use in the SBW to maintain resource integrity. While in the field, personnel keep track of campsite conditions, weed occurrences, fires, airfield use, river use, trail conditions, outfitter activities, compliance with Forest Plan standards and visitor concerns.

In 2003, 9 field-going personnel were responsible for inventory, monitoring, visitor contacts and education. Historically, 10-12 field-going personnel have been assigned to the SBW, but budget constraints have limited field coverage in recent years.

	Managed by:			Total
	Bitterroot NF	Clearwater NF	Nez Perce NF	
SBW acres	512,050	268,932	559,699	1,340,681
# Wilderness Rangers	4	2	2 +1 river ranger	9
# Volunteer Hours	540	1804	1672	4016
Total Miles SBW Trails	458.8	310.3	706.6	1,475.7
Miles SBW Trail Maintained	266.3	202.2	364.4	832.9
# Campsites Monitored	204	109	57	370

Bitterroot National Forest

Four permanent wilderness rangers and one part-time seasonal patrolled the Bitterroot portion of the SBW in Montana and Idaho. Some of their time was also spent in the Frank Church River of No Return and the Anaconda Pintler Wildernesses. These rangers are based out of the Darby, West Fork and Stevensville Ranger Districts. Two trail reconstruction crews and a Level 1 Trail Maintenance crew also spent portions of their time in the Wilderness. Two individuals also focused on trail condition surveys, some of these surveys were in the SBW.

Clearwater National Forest

The Clearwater supported two wilderness rangers who patrol both the Lochsa and Powell Ranger Districts' portion of the SBW. Rangers primarily used the Elk Summit and Wilderness Gateway portals to access the SBW. In addition to the 2 rangers, a 5 person Wilderness Trail Crew operated in the SBW during 2003.

Nez Perce National Forest

Two Wilderness Rangers were responsible for covering 560,000 Wilderness acres on the District. One Wilderness Ranger position remains unfilled. The District Resource Assistant/ Nez Perce Forest Wilderness Program Manager position remains vacant and the lead wilderness ranger assumes much of that responsibility. This decreased his time in the field. Another seasonal field person spent a limited amount of time in the Selway-Bitterroot, but worked mostly in the Meadow Creek area. Because of a very active fire season, Wilderness Rangers spent four hitches of field time associated with fire instead of field responsibilities.

SELWAY RIVER

The Moose Creek and West Fork Ranger Districts share the administration of the Selway River. West Fork administers the permit system, river outfitters, and launch site. The river ranger from Moose Creek has primary responsibility for the river corridor. River Ranger duties include monitoring river and campsite conditions, ensuring compliance with regulations, naturalizing campsites, supporting the trail crew, organizing a small cadre of highly qualified volunteers as secondary boatmen, transporting various specialists down the river and making public contacts along the river corridor.

The section of river covered by the private float application reservation system extends from the Paradise Launch Site to Selway Falls. The reservation/permit system for this segment is in effect from May 15 to July 31st and all parties floating that section of river must have a reservation and trip permit. The person holding the reservation must pick up the permit and participate in the trip, no alternate trip leaders will be designated. Reservations and permits are not required outside of the control period for private non-commercial floaters.

One private launch opportunity is reserved each day for 62 days of the control period. The remaining 16 days are reserved for commercial outfitters with one launch per day. Of the 1,517 applications received in 2003, 44 private permits and 15 commercial permits were granted, which accounted for a total 699 people and 3,678 use days.

Unassigned, cancelled or unconfirmed launches are allocated (by telephone only) on a first-come, first-served basis after the initial lottery in February and continuing throughout the control period. There is no waiting list. No shows and cancelled trips accounted for a total of 19 unused days during the 2003 control period.

In 2003 snow pack was at 100% of normal on April 28. Nez Perce Pass was opened with a grader on May 28, 2003. Shearer and Moose Creek airfields also provide fly-in access to launch sites on the Nez Perce NF.

A detailed report of Selway River use in 2003 is included in the appendix. Trend comparison data from 1996 is available at the Fenn (Nez Perce NF) or West Fork (Bitterroot NF) Ranger Stations.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Trails throughout the Wilderness are maintained with a combination of Forest Service crews, contract crews, and volunteers. All Forests are conducting condition surveys on 20% of the total trail mileage per Forest annually. The total number of miles may change slightly each year as mileage is verified during the five-year deferred maintenance survey effort. Discrepancies in reported trail mileages will be justified when surveys are complete and the INFRA database continues to be updated in 2004.

Across the SBW, a total of 899.9 miles of wilderness trails were maintained to at least Level I standard. Trail standards are linked to Opportunity Class designations. The following tables clarify terminology related to trails and trail maintenance. Detailed trail work accomplishments on each Forest follow the tables:

Trail Types	Definition
System Trails:	Trails identified on the FS trails inventory and maintained on a routine schedule.

-Mainline	Trails generally maintained annually
-Secondary	Trails maintained less frequently than mainlines and to a lower standard.
-Way	Trails maintained infrequently. These may be difficult to locate and follow.
Non-system Trails	User made trails not listed on the FS trails inventory and not maintained by FS crews or contract crews. Located in all opportunity classes.
Abandoned Trails	Trails that were identified as system trails but were dropped from the system and are no longer maintained.
Storage Trails	Term used by the Clearwater NF to describe system trails that are <i>NOT</i> currently on the maintenance schedule. Storage trails may be reinserted into the maintenance schedule or may be dropped from the system pending a needs assessment.

***Note:** Trail conditions can change quickly and can be greatly influenced by weather. The above descriptions are meant to serve as guides for general information, but visitors should contact local Ranger Districts for updated trail conditions and must be prepared to encounter changes in trail conditions.

Trail Maintenance Level	Definition
I	Minimal amount of clearing, marking and repair.
II	Intermediate level of clearing, marking and repair.
III	Significant amount of clearing, marking and repair.

Opportunity Class	Definition
1	Characterized by an unmodified natural environment. Ecological and natural processes are not measurably affected by the actions of users.
2	Characterized by an unmodified natural environment. Ecological and natural processes on some sites are slightly affected by the actions of users.
3	Characterized by an essentially unmodified natural environment. Ecological and natural processes moderately affected by the actions of users.
4	Characterized by a predominately unmodified natural environment. Ecological and natural processes may be substantially affected by the actions of users.

2003 Wilderness Trail Maintenance by Forest and Opportunity Class:

Opportunity Class	1			2			3			4			Total Miles Maintained / Total Miles per Forest
	I	II	III	I	II	III	I	II	III	I	II	III	
Bitterroot NF:													
Miles Maintained	1.5	0	0	71	34	12.5	67.9	5	9	50.4	5	10	266.3
Total Miles	26.9			220			132.3			79.6			458.8
Clearwater NF:													
Miles Maintained	0	0	0	5	0	0	158.5	8.3	13.6	9.8	7	0	202.2
Total Miles	0			27.9			259			16.8			303.7
Nez Perce NF:													
Miles Maintained	0	0	0	29.3	0	0	262.7	20.5	.7	45.2	5.6	.4	364.4
Total Miles	12.6			147			491			56			706.6
Miles Maintained/ OC													832.9

Maintenance or reconstruction efforts were conducted during 2003 on the following trails:

Bitterroot National Forest:

Canyon Cr. #2, Bass Cr. #4, Selway River #4, Bear Cr. #5, Nez Perce Trail Connect #7.0, Big Creek #11, Nez Perce Indian #13.0, Divide North #16.1, Blodgett Ck. #19, Whitecap #24, Scimitar Ridge #36, Deep Ck.-Beaver Jack #37, Fred Burr #38, Mt. Aura #40, Mt. Paloma #50, Kootenai Cr. #53, Sheafman Cr. #82, Bad Luck #93, Tin Cup # 96, St. Mary's #116, Roaring Lion #124, Glen Lk. #232, Boulder Lake #249, Kootenai Lakes #302, Hauf Lk. #309, Blodgett Pass #310, S. Fork Lolo #311, Sears Lk. #312, Lappi Lk. #324, Mill Cr. #364, Halloway Lk. #393, Canyon Cr. #525, Chaffin Cr. #528, Rock Ck. #580, Boulder Cr. #617, Watchtower #699

Capital investment projects were undertaken on Tin Cup, Mill Cr., Big Cr., Selway River, Rock Cr., Blodgett Cr., and Chaffin Cr. trails. One of the capital investment projects involved replacement of the holter-cut bridge on the Big Creek Lake dam. The bridge components were packed in with the assistance of the Regional packstring from Ninemile. The prefab components were reassembled on site after extensive rockwork was completed to rebuild the abutments. Using prefab components avoided the use of helicopter transport and/or cutting large trees for stringer material. Photos of the project follow.







Clearwater National Forest:

Boulder #211 (25 miles), Warm Springs #49 (4 miles), Surprise Creek #219 (5.9 miles), Eagle Mountain #206 (42 miles), Big Sand #4 (6.7 miles), Colt Killed Creek #50 (3 miles), Frog Peak #906 (5 miles), Long Lake #205 (9 miles), Split Creek #133 (6.8 miles), Indian Meadows #208 (3 miles), Lochsa Peak #220 (12.3 miles), Greenside Butte #222 (5 miles), Gold Hill #247 (6 miles), Rock Creek #1210 (5.2 miles), Big Sand Creek #1 (6.1 miles), Wind Lakes #24 (5 miles), Pouliot #30 (4.5 miles), Friday Pass #45 (1.3 miles), Siah Lake #59 (9.1 miles), Army Mule #60 (10.3 miles), Maud-Dan Ridge #70 (3.6 miles), Big Flat/Hidden Ridge #71 (3.5 miles), Beaver Meadows #77 (1.9 miles), Saturday Ridge #89 (5.6 miles), Storm Creek #99 (6 miles), and Maple Lake #939 (7.6 miles).

Nez Perce National Forest:

Copper Butte #602, Disgrace Butte #609, Selway River #4, Bilk Mtn.#517, Upper Buck Lake #628, Running Creek #532, Spruce Creek #559, Archer #529, Barren Hill #446, Long Prairie–Moose Ridge #562, North Moose #618, East Moose #421, Paradise Creek #52, Paradise Creek #522, Cub Creek #512, Fry Pan Creek #515, Moose Ridge #562, Big Rock #693, Big Rock #693, Bailey Mnt. #619, Lost Horse #430, Bear Creek #516, Bear Creek #516, Ditch Creek #523, Mink Peak #438, Wounded Doe #465, Double Ridge #442, Shissler #450, Eagle Rock #520, Eagle Rock #520.

EDUCATION

Education programs are one tool that the Forests use to foster appreciation for the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, while encouraging responsible resource use. Programs typically focus on the value of wilderness, wilderness history and “Leave No Trace” practices in an effort to reduce visitors’ impacts and address problems such as littering, damage to trees, overgrazing, poor sanitation practices and other actions that damage the wilderness resource.

	Bitterroot NF	Clearwater NF	Nez Perce NF	Totals
# Programs presented	31	16	5	52
# Audience members reached	460	604	662	1726

Bitterroot National Forest

A long-standing program, the Wilderness Skills Trail was presented to 380, 5th and 6th grade, Bitterroot Valley students. The program covered wilderness history/philosophy/ethics and Leave-No-Trace camping.

Wilderness Rangers also gave presentations on wilderness management issues, Leave-No-Trace and MIMT (Minimum Impact Management Tactics) during District Orientations and Regional fire trainings.

Clearwater National Forest

Audience	# in Audience	Message	Date	Speaker
U of M Graduate Students	15	“W” mgmt & Careers	April 16	Ann
MCC crew leaders: Training Session	51	LNT w/ crews	April 17	Kearstin
4-5-6 th Graders from: Peck, Kooskia, Kamiah, Nez Perce, Weipe, Pierce,	200	Wilderness Skills Trail	May 5-9	Kearstin+
Uof M Wilderness & Civilization Class	32	LNT	May 9	Kevin
Attendees at 9-mile LNT Stock Masters	10	Stock LNT	May 10	Kevin
Powell Employees	34	Wilderness Awareness	June 6	Kevin & Kearstin
Powell Employees	12	Defensive Horse Safety	June/July	Kevin & Kearstin
Girl Scouts	23	“W” values & LNT	July 7	Kevin
Senior Citizens	19	LNT in the front-country	July 16	Kevin
Boy Scouts	23	“W” values & LNT	July 17	Kearstin+
Boy Scouts	8	“W” values & LNT	July 21	Kevin & Kearstin
Outfitter/Guides for Wildlife Adventures	3	Camp Inspections	July 27	Kearstin
MT. Natural Resources Youth Campers (high school age)	30	Wilderness Awareness	Aug 1	Kearstin+
Smokejumpers	8	LNT/MIST	Aug 28	Kevin
U of I Campus Recreation	121	LNT	Oct 9	Kevin
Penn State/Mont Alto University Students	13	Wilderness Awareness and mgmt challenges	Oct 12	Kearstin
TOTAL	604			

Nez Perce National Forest

Continued Reach a Teacher, Touch the World program. Eleven high school students from Midwest including three adult teacher/naturalists did erosion control and trail rehab project on Bilk Mountain and the head of Goat Creek. Those teacher/naturalists will involve about 400 students, grades K-12, in wilderness education programs. Six high school and middle school teachers continued the rehab program and developed related wilderness curriculum to implement in their respective classroom. Those teachers are expected to present wilderness education to about 200 students.

On the annual Sophomore Day the last week of May, 30 Kooskia High school tenth graders participated in Leave No Trace session presented by Fenn RS personnel.

Back Country Horsemen presented a low-impact stock-use seminar for district personnel and local backcountry stock users at the Fenn Ranger Station.

A District Packer presented a one-day low impact stock use program to 12 Conservation Corps crew members at Wilderness Gateway.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers contribute a substantial amount of time, energy and talent to the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness Program and accomplish a variety of work for all three Forests. In addition to providing visitor information at many of our wilderness portals, volunteers help pack in project supplies, assist with trail maintenance, cabin restoration and campsite restoration projects. Volunteers also help monitor and collect data for an array of projects throughout the wilderness. All the Forests are grateful for the generous assistance provided by volunteers during 2002.

The following information provides a synopsis of the volunteer efforts in the SBW during 2002.

	Bitterroot NF	Clearwater NF	Nez Perce NF	Totals
# Volunteers	67	47	104	218
# Volunteer Hours	570	1804	2,800	5174

Bitterroot National Forest

Back Country Horsemen members volunteered 510 hours on the Bitterroot National Forest, helping with numerous projects. Chuck Miller and assistants packed the Level I Trail Crew in and out of wilderness on a regular basis, helping to free up the Forest Service packers for other projects. Julie and Dave Schram once again helped with repairs and restoration on historic Cooper's Cabin as well as trail work. Members built a stock ramp at St. Mary's trailhead and taught Stock Leave No Trace courses. Retired Wilderness Ranger Sarah Walker assisted with the Regional Air Quality Program during a trip to Shasta Lake. She helped collect water samples and naturalize campsites at the lake. Several other volunteers assisted wilderness rangers.

Clearwater National Forest

Back Country Horsemen: North Central Chapter- members built 3 wooden feedbunks w/ the help of a NFF grant and delivered them to Powell for installation at Tom Beal TH in July of 04' for approximately 400 hours.-Roger Ingrahm assisted w/ stock LNT education at Elk Summit, 40 hours. **Twin Rivers Chapter 2** members contributed a total of 6 hours, helping to realign the top beam of a stock unloading ramp at Kooskooskia TH.

Wilderness Skills Trail leaders: 9 Forest Service employees from other programs and other districts volunteered their time to assist in leading 4-5-6th graders through the skills trail for a total of 128 volunteer hours

National Trails Day: 12 Montana Conservation Corps members assisted w/ a trails clearing and maintenance project around 3 miles of trail at Jerry Johnson Hot Springs for a total of 96 hours

Boy Scout Troop: A group of 8 scouts working towards their 50 miler badge assisted w/ weed pulling and campsite naturalization at Stanley Hot Springs for a total of 12 hours of service after attending a LNT session.

Elk Summit Guard Station: 4 individuals volunteered as station guards at Elk Summit and contributed approximately 712 hours of service. In addition to providing visitor information, they helped w/ routine site maintenance and trail monitoring duties. Beth also assisted in presenting 3 Leave No Trace programs for various youth groups.

Fish Lake Airstrip: Molly Weibush volunteered as a station guard at Fish Lake from June 30 through mid Sept providing a presence at the remote airstrip for 312 hours. Ivan Hendren assisted w/ trail and facilities maintenance at the airstrip during a 6 day trip, contributing 32 hours.

Horse Care Volunteers: Wilderness rangers arranged a defensive horse safety training for district employees who showed an interest in the stock program. The wilderness program relied on 3 of these individuals to help care for the stock when the wilderness rangers were either out in the field on foot, or away from the district on weekends. These individuals donated 12 hours and the wilderness rangers volunteered an additional 30 hours of time to the stock program.

Winter Patrol: Suzanne Cable, a forest service ranger from the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, volunteered her time to assist with a winter backcountry patrol and cabin maintenance at Horse Camp. 3 days (24 hours).

Nez Perce National Forest

Volunteers are essential to operations on the Nez Perce National Forest. They bring diverse and specialized skills and talents to every functional area. Volunteers are truly dedicated. The Forest is grateful for their generous gifts of time, talents and equipment without reservation each year. In 2003, the following groups continued to provide invaluable resources:

Back Country Horsemen-wilderness education for adults, students and hunters; trail maintenance; facility maintenance; support packing; weed inventories; clean-up of campsites. BCH members were

available at trailheads to disseminate information about fire; also they checked hunters for weed seed free hay at Wilderness portals.

IDAWA and ISEC- Iowa teachers and students do rehabilitation of abandoned trails where trails are reconstructed or rerouted and they do rehab of heavily impacted campsites. In 2003 they worked on campsites and trail rehab on Bilk Mountain and the head of Goat Creek. Teachers developed education projects and programs in the Wilderness and implemented them in their classrooms.

Selway River raft guides- 8 expert boatmen assist the river ranger on patrols each season. They also help naturalize river campsites and pull weeds.

Idaho Pilots Association hosted the Moose Creek air field on key weekends. They organized work parties for airfield maintenance and camp area cleanup.

Hosts at Moose Creek Ranger Station- Five individuals spent one to two-week periods at Moose Creek Ranger Station during July and August to record numbers of aircraft flights, provide historical and geographic information to visitors. They also assisted in clearing and repairing trails, building fence and general maintenance. Volunteers represented the following user-groups: horsemen, pilots, back packers and educators.

FIRE

A total of 107 fires in the SBW burned 49,299 wilderness acres during 2003. Of those 107 fires, 106 were started by lightning. Fire events ranged in size from .1 acre up to 12,467 acres.

	Bitterroot NF	Clearwater NF	Nez Perce NF	Totals
# SB Wilderness Fire Events	20	24	63	107
# lightning caused	20	24	62	106
# Acres burned	444.35	21,796.75	27,058.25	49,299.35
Range in size of fires (acres)	.1 to 374	.1 to 12,467	.1 to 11,833	
# Mechanical Use Authorizations granted?	11	9	7	27

In some instances, fires ignited by lightning in the SBW were allowed to burn as Wildland Fire Use Fires. Wildland Fire Use is the management of naturally ignited fires to achieve resource benefits, where fire is a major component of the ecosystem. Many natural resource values can be enhanced by allowing fire to play its natural role. Vast acreages of wilderness may provide opportunity for natural fire because private property and social values are seldom threatened as may be the case when fire occurs in close proximity to populated areas.

For centuries lightning caused fires have created vegetative diversity and thus a mixture of wildlife habitats, while eliminating heavy fuel accumulation. Wildland fire use can be managed to burn in a natural way to provide benefits to the resources until fall rain or snowstorms put the fire out. Wildland fires are a fact of western life - a natural component of the wilderness ecosystem.

Bitterroot National Forest

The 2003 fire season on the Bitterroot, in the Selway-Bitterroot, was relatively sedate when compared with other years and other Forests in the complex. Only 20 fires were ignited. Of those, only two were allowed to go into their natural progression as WFU's. The acreage total for these two fires was 374.1 acres. Fire occurrence is summarized in the following table. One of the large fires from the Clearwater National Forest burned into the head of the South fork of Lolo and the North Fork of Kootenai, it is shown as a Clearwater fire.

Fire Name	District	Legal	Acres	Strategy
Archer Point	West Fork	29N13ENW9	3	Control
S. Lost Horse	Darby	4N22WNWNW21	.1	Control
El Capitan	Darby	3N23WNWNW13	.1	Control
El Capitan Ridge	Darby	3N23WSWSW9	.6	Control
South Capitan	Darby	3N23WNENW16	.1	Control
Milepost Lake	Darby	3N23WNWSE6	.3	Confne/Contain
Grizzly Lake	Darby	3N23WNWSE6	.1	Confne/Contain
Capitan	Darby	4N22Wcenter30	.1	Control
Barefoot	West Fork	29N15E6	374	WFU
Sawtooth #1	Darby	6N22WSESW35	1.0	Confine
Kootenai Ck. #1	Stevensville	9N21WSENE5	18	Control
Lookout Lake	Darby	4N23WNWNW28	.1	Control
Main Lost Horse	Darby	5N22WNWSW32	.5	Control
Triple Lakes	West Fork	30N16ESWNE11	.1	Control
Sweeney Ck.	Stevensville	10N21Wcenter14	.75	Control
South Fork	Darby	4N23WSENE12	40	Control
Drop Off	West Fork	29N13ENWNW31	.1	WFU
Saw Ridge	Darby	6N22WSWSE29	.1	Control
Sawtooth Canyon	Darby	6N23WNWNE36	5	Control
Tin Cup Ridge	Darby	3N22WSENE25	.3	Control

Nez Perce National Forest

Sixteen fire events, for a total of 5,912.85 acres, were placed in Wild Land Fire Use status (WFU) on the Moose Ck. District.

Clearwater National Forest

There were 17 Wildland Fire Use (WFU) events on the Clearwater’s portion of the S-B; 11 on Powell and 6 on the Lochsa. These fires ranged from .1 acre to 3,732 acres in size:

- Powell:** Ranger Lake (.25 acres)
- Divide (.1 acre)
- Freezeout (14 acres)
- McConnell N (2,687 acres): McConnell N, McConnell NE and Wag Meadows all merged
- Wag Meadows 2 (844 acres)
- Big Sand (690 acres)
- Fish (3,732 acres) This started as a WFU, but the status was changed to confine
- Pedro (7 acres)
- Daisy (7 acres)
- Lochsa:** Greenside (3 acres)
- Butte (585 acres)
- Split (20 acres)
- Old Man (2 acres)
- Flea Ridge (20 acres)
- Chimney Lake (.1acre)

Portions of the Powell and Lochsa district were closed to public use during 2003, but areas were reopened to public use as soon as the fire danger was adequately assessed and fire notices could be posted. WFU fires were monitored from above, and with the exception of the Fish fire, no action was taken to contain or suppress the fires.

Aerial reconnaissance of the wilderness fires found that most of the fires were spreading in finger-like patterns, leaving significant portions of green within many of the burns also known as “mosaic burning”. Ground monitoring in the fall revealed that very few areas burned with great intensity and many of the burned areas were already sprouting new grass and seedlings.

Fire Name	Powell Wilderness Fires		Acres	Status
	Legal Location	Lat/Long		
Swamp	35N 15E Sec. 8 NE of SE	46 23.324 114 36.039	5	no
Beaver Ridge	37N 16E Sec. 11 Center of SW	46 33.60 114 25.19	0.1	no
Ranger Lake	37N 16E Sec. 23 SW of SE	46 31.70 114 24.80	0.25	WFU
Divide	37N 17E Sec. 29 SW of NE	46 31.25 114 20.60	0.1	WFU
Freeze Out	35N 12E Sec 8 SW of SE	46 22.65 114 57.15	13	WFU
McConnell N	35N 12E Sec. 23 NE of NE	46 21.95 114 54.84	1326	WFU
McConnell NE now McConnell N	35N 12E Sec. 24 NE of NW	46 21.89 114 54.168	<i>Originally 0.25</i>	WFU
Spruce Creek	37N 17E Sec.5 NE of NE	46 35.05 114 20.50	0.1	no

Wag Meadows now McConnell N	35N 13E Sec. 18 NW of NE	46 22.64	114 53.87	<i>Originally 0.1</i>	WFU
Beaver Lake	37N 16E Sec. 10 SE of SE	46 33.40	114 25.80	5500	no
Beaver South	37N 16E Sec.15 SE of NE	46 32.95	114 26.1	0.1	no
Wag Meadows ²	35N 12E Sec. 13 NW of NE	46 22.75	114 53.69	587	WFU
Big Sand	34N 15E Sec.7 NW of SW	46 18.08	114 31.03	637	WFU
Siah Lake	37N 16E Sec.28 SW of NW	46 31.20	114 27.40	280	no
Queen Creek	36N 13E Sec 30 NE of NW	46 25.86	114 52.64	0.5	no
Fish	35N 11E Sec. 23 NE of SE	46 21.38	115 02.35	1718	WFU/confine
Pedro	35N 13E Sec. 5 NW of NW	46 24.500	114 52.213	0.1	WFU
Daisy	36N 12E Sec24 SW of SW	46 26.44	114 54.804	0.1	WFU

Lower Lochsa Wilderness Fires

Greenside	34N 10E Sec.8 SW	46 18.3	115 14.65	3	WFU
Butte	34N 10E SEC.9 NW of SW	46 18.73	115 13.435	585	WFU
Split	33N 9E Sec 21 SE	46 10.9	115 19.79	20	WFU
Old Man	34 N 10E SEC 29 SE	46 14.65	115 14.54	2	WFU
Flea Ridge	34N 10E Sec. 32 SE	46 12.65	115 18.28	20	WFU
Chimney Lake	33N 9E Sec. 14	46 11.94	115 18.13	0.1	WFU

WILDERNESS DAMS

There are 16 privately operated dams in the Selway-Bitterroot NF, all located on the Bitterroot National Forest. Many of the dams were constructed 100 years ago and deteriorating conditions have raised safety concerns related to downstream occupancies.

Five dams (Bass Lake, Big Creek, Sears Lake, Fred Burr High Lake and Tin Cup) received routine fall maintenance. Mill Lake Dam used geo-technical drilling in preparation for repair work planned in 2006. Tin Cup and Canyon Dams had major work projects in 2003. Tin Cup work included partial restoration after the 1998 emergency breach and installation of a protective liner on the face of the dam. Canyon work included a partial breach of the dam to reduce its high-hazard rating and to prepare for work in 2004

to restore the dam. The section on Authorization for Mechanical Uses contains information on types/amounts of equipment used on these dams. Also note the section on Awards and Acknowledgements for the National Traditional Skills and Minimum Tool Award given as a result of work on Canyon Dam.

WILDERNESS AIRFIELDS

Although motorized and mechanized means of transport are generally not allowed in wilderness areas, use of aircraft to specific airfields within the SBW predates the Primitive Area classification and was permitted by both the Primitive and Wilderness classifications, subject to certain restrictions and limitations. (Emergency landings for fire, search and rescue and law enforcement are allowed outside of the airstrips in the SBW at the discretion of managers.) The SBW contains 3 existing public airstrips; Fish Lake, Moose Creek and Shearer.

The airfields are meant to function as internal portals for users pursuing wilderness dependent activities (defined as activities requiring a setting “where the imprint of man’s work is substantially unnoticeable” and which provide “opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.”) As such, short term visits and proficiency landings are discouraged in an effort to minimize disturbance which is not compatible with a wilderness experience. Administrative access to the SBW is managed according to the minimum tool principle, where pack stock and foot travel are the preferred methods of access.

The SBW general management direction identifies 2 indicators to evaluate the level of airfield use; 1) number of landings/day/airfield, and 2) number of landings/year/airfield. Standards for SBW airfield use will be determined from the results of 4 years of reliable data collection per airfield and a study to determine the perceptions of all wilderness user types regarding aircraft use in the SBW.

SBW Airfield landings monitored during 2003				
	Clearwater NF	Nez Perce NF		Total
	Fish Lake	Moose Cr.	Shearer	
Private	33	565	No monitoring	598
Administrative for Facility	1	9	--	10
Other FS Administrative	1	33	--	34
Fire	4 landings, 5 sling loads	5	--	14
Outfitters	3	74	--	77
Other	0		--	0
Total	42	686	--	728

Nez Perce National Forest

The Moose Creek airfield has two landing strips; a short strip (3400) which is accessible year long and a long strip (4100 ft). The long airstrip is closed to use when it becomes soft due to excessive moisture. Moose Creek personnel and volunteers monitored the airfield from April 16 to November 20. There were about 4 days that the airfield was not monitored. The Idaho Pilots’ Association continues to host the airstrip on key weekends. They educate backcountry pilots on low impact aircraft use and do maintenance on the airfield and camp area.

Total aircraft landings in 2003 were up by 154 flights from the 532 recorded in 2002. Private pilot use was up by 73 flights and other administrative flights increased by 25. That activity is attributed to flights by engineers and others involved in the sale of a portion of the private inholding at Seminole Ranch. Also, Idaho Fish and Game made 11 flights to transport and prepare fuel storage for a winter game count to be staged at Moose Creek in February, 2004. Those flights were recorded under "other administrative." Outfitter flights also increased by 64 flights. One outfitter did not use his area for elk hunting in 2002. Also, one outfitter who has a transfer camp at Moose Creek has not used his area for spring bear hunting in the recent past. This year, outfitters were encouraged to overlap areas to show use, and another outfitter utilized the area and flew his clients into Moose Creek. The overall use shows an upward trend, as there were 545 landings in 2000 and 532 in 2002. July, August and September are the highest use periods, with an average of 103 landings per month. Most private visitors are fishing, hiking or camping.

Aircraft landings at Shearer airstrip were not monitored on a consistent basis.

Clearwater National Forest

Fish Lake airstrip was accessible from approximately July 1st to Oct 30th during 2003. One volunteer monitored landings at the airstrip from July 1st through August 12th. Due to fires the airstrip was closed for 15 days between Aug. 12th- 26th. Because it was uncertain when the closure order would be lifted, the airstrip was not staffed by a late season volunteer. Wilderness rangers visited the airstrip briefly in September and October.

This was the second consecutive year that landings were monitored in an effort to understand airstrip use. Similar to 2002, 1-3 landings per day were typical in July and August. There were 10 monitored days when no one landed at the airstrip. Because landings were not monitored daily during hunting season (after the fire closure was lifted), the number of "Outfitter" landings recorded is low. Twenty-one percent of visitors stayed for less than an hour, forty-five percent of individuals landing stayed at the airstrip for less than 7 hours.

An airstrip safety inspection was preformed on July 5th. While standard maintenance was conducted on the cabin, no other maintenance was preformed on the airstrip-landing surface.

AUTHORIZATION FOR MECHANICAL USES

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized equipment or mechanized transport in designated wilderness areas; however, it does allow for motorized/mechanized use "as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act", (including measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area)."

In accordance with the purpose of the Act, the "minimum tool" principle is applied to the management of all resources within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. This means that the minimum management actions necessary to correct a given problem are identified. Then the methods and equipment that accomplish the objectives with the least impact on the physical, biological and social characteristics of wilderness are used. All decisions pertaining to administrative practices and use of equipment in wilderness are based on this concept.

Potential disruption of wilderness character and resources and applicable safety concerns are considered before, and given significantly more weight than, economic efficiency. If some compromise of wilderness resources or character is unavoidable, only those actions that have localized, short-term adverse impacts are authorized. Such management activities are conducted in accordance with all applicable regulations, policies, and guidelines and, where practicable, will be scheduled to avoid creating adverse resource impacts or conflicts with visitors' experiences.

BITTERROOT NF	START DATE OF ACTIVITY	TYPE OF USE	MINIMUM REQUIREMENT DECISION USED?
	8/13/2003	Kootenai Fire used 1 chainsaw and 6 helicopter landings	N
	8/07/2003	Sweeney Fire used 8 water drops	N
	8/07/2003	El Capitan Fire use d1 chainsaw, 2 helicopter landings and 6 water drops	N
	8/07/2003	El Capitan Ridge Fire used 1 chainsaw, 2 helicopter landings and 6 water drops	N
	8/07/2003	South El Capitan Fire used 1 chainsaw, 2 helicopter landings and 5 water drops	N
	8/07/2003	Milepost Lake Fire used 6 landings and 20 waterdrops	N
	8/09/2003	Sawtooth Fire used 24 water drops	N
	8/07/2003	Grizzly Lake Fire used 30 water drops	N
	8/07/2003	White Mountain Fire used 1 chainsaw, 2 helicopter landings and 24 water drops	N
	8/09/2003	Lookout Lake Fire used 4 water drops	N
	8/21/2003	Saw Ridge Fire used 8 water drops	N
	9/01/2003	Sawtooth Canyon Fire used 1 chainsaw, 8 landings and 32 water drops	N
	10/14/2003	Bass Lake Dam Maintenance used 1 chainsaw	N
	9/16/2003	Big Creek Lake Dam Maintenance used 1 chainsaw	N

	9/22/2003	Sears Lake Dam Maintenance used 1 chainsaw	Y
	9/22/2003	Fred Burr High Lake Dam Maintenance used 1 chainsaw	Y
	10/17/2003	Tin Cup Lake Dam Maintenance and headgate work used 1 chainsaw and 1 portable drill	Y
	9/09/2003	Mill Lake Dam Geotechnical Drilling used a small hollow-stem auger rig and 2 helicopter landings	Y
	7/14/2003	Canyon Dam Partial Breach used 1 generator, 1 masonry saw and 4 helicopter landings	Y
	9/10/2003	Tin Cup Dam Emergency Reconstruction used 1 chainsaw, 1 pump, 1 generator, wheelbarrows, battery powered tools, a small excavator, compactor and 8 helicopter landings	Y
Clearwater NF	4-1-03	Fish Lake: Administrative use: 1 Wheelbarrow	Y
	7-1-03	Trail Construction Rock Drill/Blasting	Y
	7-17-03	Swamp Fire: Emergency Fire: Helicopter 7 sling loads 33 bucket drops	Y
	8-7-03	McConnell N. Emergency Fire: Helicopter, 1 sling load	Y
	8-8-03	Horse Camp Emergency Fire: Chainsaw use	Y
	8-8-03	Spruce Cr. Emergency Fire: Helicopter 20 bucket drops	Y
	8-8-03	Siah Fire: Emergency Fire: Chainsaws *Approved but never used	Y
	8-8-03	Beaver Lakes: Emergency Fire: 6 Helicopter landings Chainsaws for 3 days	Y
	8-9-03	McConnell N. Emergency Fire: Helicopter 1 sling load	Y
-	8-1--03	Diablo Lookout: Helicopter 2 sling loads 1 landing	Y
	8-13-03	McConnell N. Emergency Fire: Helicopter 1 Landing	Y

WEED OCCURRENCE AND SUPPRESSION

Noxious and invasive weeds continue to exist along travel routes, in suitable habitat, and along rivers and streams within the Wilderness. Weed seed free feed is required on all Forest lands in both Montana and Idaho.

An inventory crew recruited through a cooperative agreement with the Student Conservation Association spent ten weeks in the SBW recording and mapping invasive plants on the Bitterroot, Nez Perce and Clearwater Forests. The inventory crew of 9 collected data in the Paradise, Powell and Moose Creek areas. Approximately 2500 acres of additional weeds were found. Approximately 250 miles of trail were inventoried. They also recorded the upper end and outer boundaries of knapweed. Approximately 20,000 acres of Wilderness is infested by knapweed. Currently all data is on a layer that can be shared across Forests. We plan to continue this effort summer of 2004 with University of Idaho crew who will follow the same protocols and download process.

For a number of species we are still at the catch and a prevention phase. We want to focus on newer invasives that are not overtaking. This effort would involve spot spraying or bio control. A three Forest NEPA analysis is being considered.

Predominant weeds recorded (in addition to Knapweed) were sulfur cinquefoil, oxeye daisy, and St John's wort. Poison hemlock was also noted in outfitters camps. About 2500 acres were mapped this summer, which represents a larger sample than previously available.

Bitterroot National Forest

The noxious weed management program on the forest includes monitoring, education and treatment of noxious and invasive weeds in the SBW. In March of 2003, the Bitterroot Forest Supervisor signed a comprehensive Noxious Weed Treatment EIS that allowed herbicide treatment along trails leading into the SBW that were not covered by previous NEPA.

Monitoring during the last 10 years has identified widespread noxious weeds that include Knapweed, Canada Thistle and Oxeye Daisy. Recently, Sulfur Cinquefoil, Tall Buttercup (scattered on most trails, but significant in the 7 Mile Meadow of Blodgett), Common Tansy (trace amounts along Rock and Bass Creek Trails), and Goatweed (along Sweathouse Trail before the Wilderness Boundary, in an isolated ½ acre patch in the South Fork of Sweeney Creek and on Sawtooth Trail) have been identified. In 2003 the SCA crew inventoried about 1,200 acres on the Bitterroot.

Education efforts range from posting information at trailheads, contacting stock users about weed-seed-free feed requirements and school programs that include tips on reducing the introduction of noxious weeds. Wilderness rangers check feed in all stock camps including those of outfitters.

During the 2003 field season, twenty-two trails with a portion of their tread inside the SBW were treated with herbicides selected for specific action on target invasive plants. New infestation of more recent, less established invader species were detected and treated. These included tall buttercup, common tansy, sulfur cinquefoil, St. Johnswort and oxeye daisy. Treatment does not extend beyond the Bitterroot mountain crest.

Trails that received herbicide treatment for the first time saw between one to six acres of noxious weeds sprayed along the trail corridor. Trails that were sprayed in previous years generally needed less than two acres treated depending on the length of the system. The infestations on these trails are narrow linear

disconnected occurrences that are scattered up the trail and shrinking in size with each treatment. In some cases, such as with Tin Cup and Roaring Lion trails, less than half an acre of invaders were detected and treated along their entire treatment length. Applicators wetted down a total of 27 acres within the SBW with herbicide along the 22 trails approved for treatment.

Clearwater National Forest

This year wilderness rangers had assistance monitoring, mapping and pulling noxious weeds on the Clearwater's portion of the SBW. Three Student Conservation Corps members spent 3 weeks traversing targeted trails, campsites and burned areas to assess noxious weed establishment. They confirmed that knapweed is the most common weed below 4000' and identified a high frequency of St. Johnswort and Sulfur Cinquefoil in the SBW. Thistles, Hounds-tongue, Poison Hemlock and Oxeye daisy were also identified and mapped. When rangers and SCA members encountered small concentrations of weeds, the patches were hand-grubbed and recorded for future monitoring.

Weed mapping and inventory assists managers in prioritizing mechanical weed removal efforts until a broader scale weed containment/eradication strategy can be formulated. The Clearwater anticipates starting a weeds environmental assessment (EA) for lands outside the SBW in 2005 on the Powell and Lochsa Districts, and an EA for the SBW to follow. This will help reduce the spread of weeds from main corridors into the SBW. Until then, hand-pulling will be used to eradicate small populations and contain larger areas of weeds.

Education programs currently in place consist of requirements for weed-seed-free hay, posted information at trailheads and BCH trailhead education efforts in the fall, where information on low impact camping and weed-seed-free requirements are distributed. Wilderness rangers also check for weed-seed-free hay compliance during visits to both private and outfitter camps throughout the season.

Nez Perce National Forest

Moose Creek ranger District continues an integrated noxious weed program in the SBW that includes: *Inventory and early detection*- Selway river trail #4 is inventoried each year for new invaders and mapping of spotted Knapweed spread. Volunteers helped map weeds along trails.

Treatment: The Indian hill, Fog Mountain and Race Creek trailheads and stock facilities were sprayed. The backcountry horsemen of North central Idaho sprayed Selway river trail #4 to the wilderness boundary. No chemical treatments were applied within the SBW. Small isolated populations were hand grubbed by wilderness rangers and volunteers. The Selway river ranger pulls spotted knapweed at campsites along the river.

Biocontrol: The Nez Perce National Forest in a cooperative agreement with the BIO-Control Center of the Nez Perce Tribe collects, rears and distributes insects to attack spotted knapweed. These agents are distributed along trails and in areas of high weed concentration.

Weed free forage: Each fall volunteers and Wilderness Rangers staff check points at Key trailheads that receive heavy stock use. They check for compliance of tags that meet weed free standards in Idaho and Montana.

To assist in the early detection of invasive weeds, the partners of the Clearwater Basin Weed Management Area of central Idaho proposed a systematic and consistent approach to invasive plant surveys. The objectives of the proposal were: 1) Design and implement a consistent and repeatable weed sampling

protocol across the Wilderness. 2) Collect spatial and tabular weed data that is consistent with Forest Service standards. 3) Structure both tabular and spatial data to be shareable with the community, partners of the weed cooperative and other state and federal agencies. 4) Survey approximately 50,000 acres.

Student Conservation Association (SCA) crews were utilized during the 2003 field season to implement an early detection and inventory protocol with the logistical support of the Forest Service and technical assistance (digital field recorder, software, and GPS equipment) provided by corporate sponsors. Three 3-person crews surveyed along transportation routes sampling susceptible habitats and searching for approximately 7 target species. They are: 1) rush skeleton weed 2) spotted knapweed 3) sulfur cinquefoil 4) yellow starthistle 5) dalmation toadflax 6) leafy spurge 7) orange hawkweed. Data were collected on electronic field recorders and downloaded into the Nez Perce National Forest database. The data will be processed this winter and integrated into the weed spatial layer. The survey is ongoing and results will be summarized after completion of the project.

STOCK IMPROVEMENTS

Stock use is traditional in the Selway-Bitterroot. Horses and mules have been used historically to transport people and materials necessary to maintain trails, staff lookouts, patrol remote areas, fight and monitor fire, recreate in summer and hunt in the fall. Stock users are also some of our most active volunteers. Often the facilities that minimize impact, provide convenience and safety at trailheads have not been available. There has been a concerted effort on all three Forests to provide more facilities such as feed bunks, unloading ramps, and hitch rails. Accomplishments from the last 10 years were listed in the 2002 report. Forests have been consistently improving stock facilities and accommodations at wilderness trailheads. The following information summarizes the added improvements for 2003.

Bitterroot National Forest

A majority of Bitterroot NF trails are maintained to accommodate a range of challenges/experiences for stock users. An extensive trails program includes work to address stock safety concerns. In an average year, one or two SBW trails receive major reconstruction and 200-300 miles of trail are maintained to a pack and saddle standard.

In 2003 Mill Ck. Trailhead was partially reconstructed. Routine maintenance at all trailheads and improvements of hitch racks, feed bunks, meat poles, loading ramps, and toilets at several trailheads in the Magruder corridor were also completed.

Clearwater National Forest

In addition to routine maintenance of loading ramps, hitch rails and watering tanks at trailheads along the northern border of the SBW, all trail bridges are inspected on a four-year rotation and suspension bridges across the Lochsa are inspected every other year.

Nez Perce National Forest

Feed bunks and tie-ups constructed by the North Central Idaho Back Country Horsemen and Trapper Creek Job Corps will be placed at three Wilderness portals in 2004. Plans are to reconstruct bridges at Cupboard Creek and Three Links Creek in 2004

ADMINISTRATIVE SITES

Administration of the SBW for the purposes for which it was established, entails maintenance of certain structures and facilities both within (W) and immediately adjacent (A) to the Wilderness. The following list identifies use at these sites during 2003.

Bitterroot National Forest

- St. Mary's Lookout: (W) Used for approximately 50 days.
- Cooper's Flat Cabin: (W) Used for approximately 10 days.
- Paradise: (A) Staffed from May 18 through August 3, 2003??? with a FS employee who worked Saturday through Monday and holidays.

Clearwater National Forest: (W = in wilderness, A= adjacent to wilderness)

- Horse Camp: (W) Used approximately 22 days by Trail contract administrators and wilderness rangers on backcountry patrol.
- Fish Lake Guard Station: (W) Used approximately 38 days by volunteers monitoring the airstrip and by wilderness rangers on backcountry patrol.
- Diablo Lookout: (W) Intact structure, staffed from Aug 10 to Sept 19 to replace the lookout position evacuated at Beaver Ridge.
- McConnell Mountain Lookout: (W) Deteriorating structure, not staffed.
- Grave Peak Lookout: (W) Deteriorating structure, not staffed.
- Hidden Peak Lookout: (W) Deteriorating structure, not staffed.
- Bear Mountain Lookout: (A) Wildland Fire Use firefighters stationed on Bear Mountain (not in the lookout) from July through August. Lookout requires upgrades to meet OSHA standards before it can be occupied.
- Beaver Ridge Lookout: (A) Staffed July 8 – Aug 9th. Lookout evacuated after significant lightning starts on the lookout ridge. Re-staffed Aug 21st – Oct 10th.
- Lochsa Historic Station: (A) Staffed by volunteers from May to Oct
- Elk Summit Guard Station: (A) Staffed by volunteers from July 10 to Sept 13th
- Colt Creek Cabin: (A) Deteriorating cabin, not staffed

Nez Perce National Forest

Moose Creek Ranger Station was staffed from April 16 through November 20. The station serves as a base of operations for trail crews, fire crews and Wilderness rangers.

Shearer Guard Station was used for fire operations for 60 days during August to October.

Selway Falls Guard Station is a portal to, but outside the SBW near Race Creek It was utilized by crews and district packers. It was wrapped for protection from Slim's Fire.

Lost Horse Guard Station is outside the SBW and was used by trail crews, wilderness rangers, fire personnel, Forest archeologists and Back County Horseman volunteers for 20 days in 2003. It was wrapped for a short period of time for fire protection.

RESEARCH

The Wilderness Act specifically refers to the value of wilderness to science. Because wilderness areas encompass an array of habitat types and provide homes for a wide range of organisms in a relatively undisturbed setting, these areas offer rich opportunities for research. In the SBW, research needs are prioritized annually. Projects must be approved by the Forest Supervisor and must be conducted so as to preserve the natural conditions of the wilderness with the imprint of human work substantially unnoticed. Research must be carried out in a manner consistent with opportunity class requirements and avoid impacting users' pursuits of isolation in opportunity classes 1, 2 and 3.

The following research is currently underway in the SBW:

Bitterroot National Forest

The Bitterroot National Forest continued research on weeds relating to past fire occurrence. Research is also continuing on Columbia spotted frogs. Fisheries effectiveness monitoring, for INFISH and PACFISH, is being conducted by the Forest Service-wide Fish and Aquatic Ecology Unit. Forest Inventory Analysis Plots are still being monitored as well. A link is provided at the end of the document for further information. Contact for all projects: Sharon Ritter (406) 363-7115.

Clearwater National Forest

Temperature Monitoring for Fish Bearing Streams: Clearwater National Forest: 1999-2005. Monitoring provides year-round temperature data on creeks within the SBW to determine if the streams meet Cold Water Biota Standards. Streams monitored include Upper Storm Creek, North and South Forks of Storm Creek, and Maude were started for testing in 2002 and will go through 2005. Big Sand Creek had data collected in 1998, 1999, 2003 and will go through 2004. Dan, Fern, Pedro and Wind Lakes Creeks were collected from 1998 through 2003. Wag, Queen, Tom Beal, Dodge, Upper Warm Springs, and Hungry Creeks were started in 2003 and will continue through 2007. This monitoring information can be reviewed in the annual Clearwater NF Monitoring Plan. Contact: Pat Murphy (208) 476-4541

Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) annually surveys high mountain lakes on the Forest for location, size, depth, and fish/amphibian data. IDFG has a Fisheries Management Plan started in 2001 through 2006, and can be obtained from the Fisheries Bureau Headquarters in Boise, ID at (208) 334-3791.

Idaho Fish and Game also tagged Bull Trout last summer 2003 in the Lochsa River to track fish spawning. They were found in SBW locations. For more information, you can call Dani Schiff at IDFG in Lewiston as the primary contact at 208-799-5010.

Lolo Pass Redevelopment Project: composed of multiple studies including, Impact of Hwy 12 on Fishers and Evaluating Wolverine and Lynx movements: USDA FS, Rocky Mountain Research Station: 2000-2005. Data is being collected to help understand populations, home ranges and movement patterns of fishers, wolverines and lynx in relation to the highway and other landscape features. The Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness is part of this study area.

Contact: Mike K. Schwartz (406) 542-4161

Nez Perce National Forest

Intermountain Research Station A research branch of the Forest Service installed permanent Vegetative plots on the Moose Creek Ranger District. These plots will serve as a baseline for tracking changes in vegetation over time.

In 2003, the Nez Perce National Forest personnel provided packing support for an Idaho Department of Fish and Game project in North Moose Creek to collect juvenile steelhead trout for PIT tagging. Data collected is important for understanding fish survival from juvenile to adult and tracking migratory activity in the Columbia River Basin.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

In addition to Law Enforcement Officers (LEO's) who work on each Forest, some districts have wilderness personnel who are authorized Forest Protection Officers (FPO's) and are trained in Level II law enforcement. LEO's and FPO's record incidents that occur in the wilderness and have the authority to issue violation notices when CFRs (Code of Federal Regulations) are disregarded by visitors. In 2003, a total of 41 incidents were reported in the SBW and 8 violation notices were issued. A breakdown of incidents is provided below:

	Bitterroot NF	Clearwater NF	Nez Perce NF	Total
# Law Enforcement Personnel	3	4	2	9
# Incident reports written	29	13	0	41
# Violation notices written	2	4	2	8

Bitterroot National Forest

Incident Reports: 210 Minor Litter
 16 Excessive litter (beyond microtrash)
 2 Sanitation
 4 Vandalism or theft to signs
 1 Abandoning Equipment
 3 Damage to Natural Resources
 1 Snowmobile Trespass
 1 Motorcycle Trespass

Clearwater National Forest

Incident Reports: 6 Cut or damage to green trees
 5 Litter
 1 Report of chainsaw use in wilderness
 1 Dead Horse in wilderness
 Violation Notices: 1 Exceeding wilderness group size limit
 1 Cut or damage to green trees
 1 Building or maintaining a campfire during fire restriction
 Warning Notice: 1 Vehicle parked in trailhead

Nez Perce National Forest

One violation notice was issued for use of a chain saw in designated Wilderness.
 One violation is currently under investigation concerning outfitter operations.

OUTFITTERS

Thirty-seven outfitters operated under special use permits in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness during 2003. 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.

Outfitter and guides pay 3% of their gross revenue in use fees. A portion of these fees comes back to the Forests in the form of Outfitter and Guide "Fee Demo" dollars. These dollars are used for trail maintenance and reconstruction, wilderness education, wilderness field presence, trailhead improvements, and other services that benefit both public users and outfitters.

Forest	# Outfitters	# Camps used in SBW	# Camps immediately adjacent to SBW
Bitterroot NF	20	13	4
Clearwater NF	6	12	6
Nez Perce NF	11	25	--
Total	37	50	10

Bitterroot National Forest

The Bitterroot National Forest had a total of 20 outfitters who used the Selway Bitterroot as all or part of their operations in 2003. Of that total 4 were river outfitters, 5 were day use outfitters, and one a backpacking outfitter. None of these utilize assigned camps. Of the 10 outfitters who sometimes have assigned overnight camps in the Selway-Bitterroot only 5 had assigned camps in 2003. Those 5 had a total of 13 assigned camps in the Wilderness and 4 adjacent to the wilderness. The adjacent camps are used as base camps. These camps are larger and are more elaborate than those found in the Wilderness. They are characterized by more development and facilities such as large tents, hitch racks, corrals, and feed bunks.

Nez Perce National Forest

The Nez Perce National Forest has 7 Outfitters that have other camps in SBW whose permits are administered by other Forest Service Units. Their camps will show up in the Bitterroot and Clearwater National Forest reports. Fire caused outfitters to juggle campsites and area use in 2003.

USE MONITORING

Visitors to the SBW pursue a variety of activities including: hiking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, photography, nature study, swimming, mountain climbing and numerous other forms of recreation. Monitoring the types and amount of use in an area as vast as the SBW is difficult at best. With limited field coverage monitoring data is only a sample of existing use. Standards exist within each opportunity class for both site and social indicators in order to effectively protect the wilderness resource and trigger management action should unacceptable conditions develop.

Social indicators include the # of other parties encountered each day and the number of other parties camped within site of sound of a campsite. Site indicators are measured by the number of sites per square mile and by the sites per impact rating per square mile (impacts assigned according to the Limits of Acceptable Change system). In general the campsite information is more accurate than the encounter data.

Both site and social indicators are monitored by wilderness rangers during their time in the field. Site indicators are measured at each campsite a minimum of once every five years. Each year, wilderness rangers visit a percentage of campsites within their district and conduct complete campsite inventories, however they typically visit and naturalize a number of sites in addition to those slotted for an official inventory. During 2003, rangers visited and monitored 370 campsites. Specific site monitoring data can be found in the appendix to this document.

Visitor registration cards and field encounters provide information on social indicators. While the voluntary registration cards used in the SBW do not provide a complete picture of the number of wilderness users in the SBW, they do provide a reference for a minimum level of use at a particular portal.

Wilderness Encounters Data From Wilderness Rangers

	Bitterroot NF	Clearwater NF	Nez Perce NF	Total
# Groups contacted	117	81	See notes below	
# Visitors Contacted	290	229	900	1419

Bitterroot National Forest

Registration boxes, approximately 25, were installed at all major west-side canyon trailheads. Approximately 185 groups filled out at least partial information about their trips. The INFRAWILD database has a program specific to trailhead registration but it has not yet been modified to match our collected information. This is “winter work” and no wilderness rangers are working during the winter season because of the low budget.

Encounter information is based solely on those contacts made in the field by wilderness rangers.

Clearwater National Forest

The month long fire closures reduced visitor numbers in the backcountry during 2003. It seemed that even when the Forest re-opened, many visitors chose to recreate elsewhere. The following encounter summary includes only those individuals that wilderness rangers contacted while *in* the SBW. While encounter numbers in 2003 were lower than 2002, wilderness rangers spoke to a significant number of day users at sites adjacent to the SBW while they were out posting fire information at campgrounds and along the road system. The majority of these contacts were positive, and folks seemed to accept the fire restrictions and closures.

Similar to 2002, the majority of encounters were with people traveling to or from Stanley Hot Springs. Visitation to Stanley Hot Springs seemed to average 15 or more people on any given weekend. Visitation at Elk Summit was sporadic; the campgrounds either seemed to be bursting with visitors or only 1 or 2 small groups there at a time. The number of hunters at Elk Summit seemed considerably lower than during 2002.

Clearwater Rangers 2003 SBW Encounters		
	Total # of	
	Groups	People
Day Hikers	36	117
Backpackers	20	62
Equestrian	13	41
Outfitters	9	--
Contractors	--	--
Admin	2	5
Pilots/other	1	4
Total	81	229

Nez Perce National Forest

No systematic trail encounters data was collected by Wilderness Rangers in 2003, but visitors that arrived at Moose Creek Ranger Station or who were encountered on trails going to and from the station were recorded. Over 900 visitors were recorded. The majority of the visitors arrived there by airplane (includes guided hunters) with boaters floating the Selway River comprising the next largest user-group, followed by backpackers then stock users.

CAMPSITE MONITORING/PROBLEM AREAS:

Campsite Monitoring:

All Forests monitor campsites to determine problem areas or to track trends in existing problem areas. A detailed report for problem areas and campsites monitored on all three Forests is found in the appendix to this document.

Bitterroot National Forest

A total of 204 campsites were monitored. Many areas are relatively stable, a few are receiving more use and have an increased number of sites or sites with heavier impacts. In some areas, less use or administrative efforts, such as getting rid of fire rings or strategically placing logs to diminish site size, have resulted in sites being less evident or actually disappearing.

Clearwater National Forest

Wilderness Rangers completed 109 campsite inventories, which accounted for approximately 90% of the inventories on the 2003 schedule. After two seasons, rangers are starting to learn campsite locations and catch up w/overdue inventories. Approximately 25% of the sites checked were no longer evident. Trends for the remaining number of monitored, active sites in the system generally seem to either be holding steady or improving slightly. However, we have identified a number of new sites to add to the files.

Problem areas:

Seven Lakes: All the campsites and signs were assessed in the Seven Lakes area in 2003. UV light has deteriorated a number of the special site designation signs. Overall, the area received less use this year due to fire activity and smoke. Overgrazing did not seem to be an issue this year.

Stanley Hot Springs: All the campsites in the vicinity of the Hot Springs were inventoried for 2003. This is the most heavily used wilderness site. Although trash is still a sporadic problem, most of the sites are fairly clean. The area immediate area is completely void of small down woody debris, from people collecting firewood. Users have been felling 10" diameter snags for wood and have also been cutting live branches. This year a Boy Scout Troop assisted the Wilderness Program by volunteering to clean up the Stanley Hot Springs area and help with some weed pulling and fire ring naturalization.

Big Sand Lake: The campsites at Big Sand Lake were inventoried for 2003. During the summer a Boy Scout troop created a new user trail, damaged some small saplings and enlarged the fire ring at the western site. The campsites on the eastern shore are merging and are heavily impacted. Sanitation was an issue at the lake this year. The Big Sand Fire, to the north of the lake, closed the area to use for approximately 3 weeks.

Nez Perce National Forest

Total of 57 sites monitored, cleaned or naturalized. This does not include all the sites near Moose Creek Ranger Station and Three Forks area which are visited and naturalized, when necessary, several times each season. Four hitches that would have been devoted to monitoring, especially in problem areas, were lost to activities associated with the extreme fire season.

AWARDS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Numerous volunteers and Forest Service employees contribute an immeasurable amount of dedication, hard work and enthusiasm into the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness program each year. The following individuals and groups were recognized for their outstanding efforts in 2003.

Bitterroot National Forest

Through the combined effort of individuals dedicated to the innovative use of traditional tools and techniques, Canyon Dam was successfully breached during 2003 to reduce a high-hazard rating and lay the groundwork for restoration. Workers moved approximately 135 tons of rock using a “sky-line” rigging system (use of ropes, cables, hoists and climbing techniques similar to techniques used in logging) and another 265 tons of dirt from the middle of the dam to off-site stockpiles. The work integrated people from a wide range of disciplines with the common ability to “brainstorm” innovative solutions to unexpected difficulties and endure the physical demands of working extended periods in a remote wilderness setting. Techniques used 100 years ago to construct dams now located in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness proved successful in meeting the challenges associated with modern engineering, safety and economic requirements. This project also met a major principle of wilderness philosophy in furthering the knowledge and use of traditional tools. The Bitterroot National Forest is especially pleased to announce that in April of 2004 Canyon Dam work received the National Wilderness Award for Traditional Skills and Minimum Tool.

Specifically mentioned in the award were:

Ian Barlow, Elk City Ranger District, Nez Perce NF, Wilderness & Trails

Steve Ramero, Northern Region Regional Office, Engineering

Elizabeth Ballard and Terri Anderson, Bitterroot NF Planning and Engineering (respectively)

Hydrometrics, Inc. (Doug Parker) and DJ Engineering (Dave Jones), Consulting Engineers for the Canyon Creek Irrigation District

Montana Conservation Corps (MCC), Missoula Division

The Bitterroot National Forest also wishes to recognize Marty Almquist whose exceptional efforts in the field and during the analysis phase made the project possible. The Bitterroot also extends deep appreciation to retired Forest Service employees Warren Miller and Bruce Dreher for their help in the initial phase of the project; to MCC Crew Leaders Bobbie Grillo, Kurt Ingold, Chris Klingerheber, Meg O'Donnell, Casey Coughlin, Mollie Lemke, Justin Barber and their energetic crew members; and to Tom Henderson, his packers and mule train, who negotiated extremely difficult terrain with countless bulky and awkward loads. Kootenai, an intelligent mule, became increasingly reluctant to make the difficult trip and the perseverance of Tom's packers encouraging her is symbolic of the “can-do” attitude required by everyone working on this project.









Clearwater National Forest

1. Seven Forest Service employees were recognized with keepsake awards and certificates for volunteering their time to the Wilderness Skills Trail program. These employees helped present wilderness awareness and Leave No Trace messages to over 200 elementary school children from Weippe, Peck, Pierce, Nez Perce, Kooskia and Kamiah.
2. The Wilderness program on the Clearwater was pleased to recognize the efforts of 5 wilderness volunteers. These individuals served as station guards and backcountry rangers. They shared their commitment and enthusiasm for wilderness with visitors by providing current area information and promoting Leave No Trace practices. Volunteers received keepsake awards and certificates of appreciation.

Nez Perce National Forest

The North Central chapter of the Backcountry Horseman of Idaho sent certificates of appreciation to the bridge construction crew for a job well done.

Links to Forest Web Sites

Forest Web Sites
<p>Nez Perce National Forest http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce Route 2, Box 475 Grangeville, ID 83530 (208) 983-1950</p>
<p>Bitterroot National Forest http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/bitterroot 1801 North 1st Street Hamilton, MT 59840 (406) 363-7100</p>
<p>Clearwater National Forest http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater 12730 Highway 12 Orofino, ID 83544 (208) 476-4541</p>
<p>Lolo National Forest http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo Fort Missoula Building 24 Missoula, MT 59804 (406) 329-3750</p>

PROBLEM AREA MONITORING (APPENDIX)

Bitterroot National Forest

DARBY DISTRICT

COMPARTMENT #	PROBLEM AREAS	IMPACT LEVEL/TREND	SITE DENSITY
Canyon #201	Y	No new data	No change
Sawtooth #202	Y	2 Sites improved 5 Sites remained stable 7 Sites with no new data	NA
Roaring Lion #203	Y	1 Site remained stable 9 Sites with no new data	NA
Lost Horse #204	Y	1 Site remained stable	No change

		15 Sites with no new data	
Rock Creek #205	Y	No new data	No change
Little Rock Creek #206	Y	2 Sites improved 1 Site remained stable 17 Sites with no new data	No change
Tin Cup #207	Y	No new data	No change
Chaffin #208	Y	4 Sites improved 4 Sites remained stable 1 Site deteriorated 1 New site 6 Sites with no new data	Deteriorated
Trapper Creek #209	Y	2 Sites remained stable 1 Site deteriorated 2 Sites with no new data	NA

Narrative: Sawtooth, Roaring Lion and Trapper Creek exceed standards because of excessive impacts at occasional sites. Each of the other drainages has destination lakes, with a combination of site impacts and site density causing them to exceed standards.

Stats for 2003

Resource Compartments = 9

Total Resource sites = 143

Extreme sites = 9

Heavy sites = 28

Moderate sites = 55

Light sites = 50

No new problem areas were identified in 2003.

STEVENSVILLE DISTRICT			
COMPARTMENT #	PROBLEM AREAS	IMPACT LEVEL/TREND	SITE DENSITY
1) Carlton #101	N	No change	N/A
2) One Horse #102	N	No change	N/A
3) Sweeney #103	Y	No change	No change
4) Bass #104	Y	No Change	No change
5) Kootenai #105	Y	No change	No change
6) Big Creek #106	Y	No Change	No Change
7) Glen Lake #107	Y	No change	No change
8) Bear Creek #108	Y	No change	No change

9) Fred Burr #109	N	No change	N/A
10) Mill Creek #110	Y	1 new site	1 site recovered
11) Blodgett Creek #111	Y	No Change	No change
12) S Fork Lolo #701	Y	No new data	No new data

Stats for 2003:

Resource Compartments = 12

Total Resource sites = 115

Newly listed sites = 0

Extreme sites = 9

Heavy sites = 40

Moderate sites = 37

Light sites = 29

No new problem areas were identified in 2003.

WEST FORK DISTRICT			
<i>COMPARTMENT #</i>	<i>PROBLEM AREA</i>	<i>IMPACT LEVEL</i>	<i>SITE DENSITY</i>
1) Running Creek #401	N	n/a	n/a
2) Selway #402	N	n/a	n/a
3) Gardiner Peak #403	N	n/a	n/a
4) Bad Luck #404	Y	SAME	S
5) Lookout Creek #405	Y	SAME	S
6) Whitecap #406	Y	DOWN	D
7) Canyon Creek #407	Y	SAME	S
8) Boulder Creek #408	Y	SAME	S
9) Gem #409	Y	UP	U
10) Nelson #410	N	UP	S
11) Soda Springs #411	N	n/a	n/a
12) Little West Fork #412	N	n/a	n/a
13) Watchtower #413	N	n/a	n/a
14) Sheephead #414	Y	no new data	S
15) Eagle Creek #415	Y	no new data	S

WEST FORK DISTRICT			
<i>COMPARTMENT #</i>	<i>PROBLEM AREA</i>	<i>IMPACT LEVEL</i>	<i>SITE DENSITY</i>
16) Crooked Creek #416	N	n/a	n/a
17) Snake Creek #417	Y	no new data	
18) Schofield #418	Y	UP	S
19) Indian Creek #419	Y	SAME	S
20) Beaver Jack #420	Y	SAME	S
21) Cayuse Creek #421	Y	SAME	S
22) Little Clearwater #422	Y	UP	S
23) Lodgepole #423	N	n/a	n/a
24) Salamander # 424	Y	SAME	S
25) Magurder #425	Y	SAME	S

Stats for 2003:

Resource Compartments = 25

Total Resource sites = 121

Sites inventoried in 2003 = 47

Clearwater National Forest

Clearwater National Forest: 2003 Campsite Inventory Trend Data

Areas	Site	Type	OC	Site Name	Code a site Year/grade	79	87	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01
Big Sand Compartment	403-2-02		3	Jct Tr 4 & 1	1979	E			M				H			H				
	403-2-03		3	Jct Tr 1 & 10	1979	L			L				L				M			
	403-2-04		3	Tr 4	1979	E	H			H			E			H	M			
	403-2-08		3	Tr 1	no date/	M				E			H			H				
	403-2-09		3	Poacher Cr	1979	M					H		M			M				
Big Sand Lake Problem Area	403-2-14		3		1978/E		H			E			E			E				
	403-2-15		3		1978/M		H			H			H			H				
	403-2-16		3		1978/M		H			E			E			E			E	
Trail 4 Problem Area	403-2-05		3		1979	E	M			H			E			H				
	403-2-06		3		1979	L				H			L			M				
	403-2-22		3		1979	E				H			H			H				
	403-2-29		3								M			M						
Bridge Cr Problem Area	403-3-01		3	Tr 28	1979	M													L	
	403-3-02		3	Tr 28	1979	L					E			E					H	
	403-3-03		3	Tr 28							H				M					
Wind Lakes Problem Area	406-1-12		3		1977/H							M				E				
	406-1-13		3		1979	L						M				M				
	406-1-14		3		1979	M						H				H			H	
	406-1-15		3		1979	E						E				E			E	
	406-1-22		3									H				H				
	406-1-23		3										L			M				
	406-1-24		3									M				L				
Fish Lake Problem Area	407-2-07		4	by cabin								M			M					
	407-2-08		4	by cabin								H			H					
	407-2-16		4	off airstrip									E						H	
Pass Cr	507-8-01	SU	-	Pass Cr						H			M							
Surprise Cr.	508-3-05	PV	3*	Surprise Cr buried horse												L				
Seven Lakes Problem Area	508-3-10	PV	3*	Seven L - southmost lake															L	
	508-3-11	PV	3*	Seven L - 300' n of Tr 220	80/M						L								H	
	508-3-12	PV	3*	Seven L - 50' n of Tr 220	73					H									M	
	508-3-13	PV	3*	Seven L - n of Tr 220															M	
	508-3-14	PV	3*	Seven L - southmost lake								M							L	
	508-3-15	PV	3*	Seven L - Mud Lake															L	
Seven Lakes Problem Area cont..	508-3-16	PV	3*	Seven L - on Tr 220	80/M						H							H		
	508-3-17	PV	3*	Seven L - lower lake east	80/M						H							M		
	508-3-18	PV	3*	Seven L - middle lake NW	80/M						M							L		

	508-3-19	PV	3*	Seven L - middle lake W	80/M	M			M
	508-3-20	PV	3*	Seven L - on Tr 220					
	508-3-21	PV	3*	Seven L - "Mosquito L"	80/L		L		L
	508-3-22	PV	3*	Seven L - Mud L - mdw to E	80/M		H		L
	508-3-24	PV	3*	Seven L - Mud L - 500' south	80/H	H			H
	508-3-25	PV	3*	Seven L - Mud L - NW corner			M		L
	508-3-28	PV	3*	Seven L - Mud L - W shore			H		L
	508-3-29	PV	3*	Seven L - Mud L west, trees			H		L
	508-3-30	PV	3*	Seven L - Mud L SE, trees			L		L
Cliff Cr	508-4-01	PV	3*	Cliff Cr lwr mdw	80/H		L	L	
	508-4-02	PV	3*	Cliff Cr middle mdw	80/M		H	H	
	508-4-03	PV	3*	Cliff Cr middle mdw	80/E		M	L	
	508-4-04	PV	3*	Cliff Cr lwr mdw			M	L	
	508-4-05	PV	3*	Cliff Cr middle mdw				M	
	508-4-13	PV	3*	Cliff Cr upper mdw, poles					*
	508-4-14	PV	3*	Cliff Cr upper mdw					
	508-4-16	PV	3*	Cliff Cr main site	80/H	E		H	
Boulder Cr Area	508-5-01	PV	2	Upper Dodo Cr				M	L
	508-6-07	PV	3	Boulder Cr, Dodo Mdws	80/L			*	*
	508-6-08	PV	3	Boulder Cr, Dodo Mdws	80/L			M	M
	508-7-01	PV	4*	Horse Camp, old O/G camp	80/M	H		M	
	508-7-02	FS	4*	Horse Camp, old frame cabin				*	
	508-7-03	PV	4*	Horse Camp, 100' SE of cabin				*	
Boulder Cr. Area cont...	508-7-04	FS	4*	Horse Camp, admin site			E	H	
	508-7-05	PV	4*	Horse Camp, mdw	80/H		M	H	
	508-7-06	PV	4*	Horse Camp, junc 219/211	80/H		H	M	
	508-7-08	FS	4*	Horse Camp, gravel load				*	
	508-7-10	PV	4*	Horse Camp, mouth Surprise	80/H	H		H	
	508-7-13	PV	4*	Horse Camp, S of ford			L	M	
	508-7-15	PV	3*	Horse Camp, on Surprise Cr		M		L	
	508-7-16	PV	4*	Horse Camp, N of cable					*

	508-7-17	PV	4*	Horse Camp, on Surprise Cr	80/L		M	L			
Stanley Hot Springs Problem area	508-8-21	PV	4*	Stanley Hot Spr, SW						*	
	508-8-22	PV	4*	Stanley Hot Spr, SW						*	
	515-1-02	FS	3	Stanley Bt, LO platform						* *	
Crags	515-1-11	PV	1*	Crags, Lloyd L W	80/L						
	515-1-12	PV	1*	Crags, Lloyd L outlet	80/L		H		H		
	515-1-13	PV	1*	Crags, Florence L W	80/L		L		M		
	515-1-15	PV	1*	Crags, Florence L E	80/L			M	M		
	515-1-16	PV	1*	Crags, Florence L 250' E	80/L		L		L		
	515-1-17	PV	1*	Crags, Florence L NE	80/L		M		L		
	515-1-18	PV	1*	Crags, Florence L 100' E	80/L		L		M		
	515-1-19	PV	1*	Crags, Florence L SE					L		
	515-1-20	PV	1*	Crags, Florence L NE						L	
	Maude/Lottie	515-2-01	PV	3*	Maude/Lottie, Maude N shore	80/E	E				L
515-2-02		PV	3*	Maude/Lottie, Maude NW	80/H						
515-2-03		PV	3*	Maude/Lottie, Maude E end	80/H	E				M	
515-2-04		PV	3*	Maude/Lottie, Maude S	80/L			M		L	
515-2-05		PV	3*	Maude/Lottie, Lottie W end	80/E	E				E	
515-2-06		PV	3*	Maude/Lottie, Lottie NE	80/L			M		*	
515-2-07		PV	3*	Maude/Lottie, Lottie SE	80/L			M		L	
515-2-08		PV	3*	Maude/Lottie, Lottie N	80/H						
515-2-09		PV	3*	Maude/Lottie, Lottie S						*	
515-2-10		PV	3*	Maude/Lottie, 6359 N	73						
515-2-11		PV	3*	Maude/Lottie, 6359 E	80/L			L		L	
515-2-12		PV	3*	Maude/Lottie, 6359 NW shore			H			H	
515-2-13		PV	3*	Maude/Lottie, Maude outlet				M		M	
515-2-14		PV	3*	Maude/Lottie, Lottie Cr				L		L	
515-2-15		SU	3*	Maude/Lottie, Lake 11	80/H	E				E	
515-2-17		PV	2	Lottie Cr				M	M		L
515-2-18		SU	2	Lottie Cr		H			H		H

	515-2-19	PV	3*	Maude/Lottie, Lottie Cr		H			M
	515-2-20	PV	3*	Maude/Lottie, Sec 30 L	80/L		L		*
Old Man Area	515-2-28	PV	1	Old Man Cr				*	
	515-3-01	SU	3	Huckleberry Saddle			M	*	
	515-5-01	PV	3	Split Cr R, sheep camp	80/E		M		M
	515-6-01	PV	2	Flea L, inlet					M
	515-6-02	PV	2	Flea L, S of lake					L
	515-7-02	PV	1	Old Man Cr, Chimney Cr				*	

* Sites have revegetated or have been restored and are no longer visible

Nez Perce National Forest

Sites monitored in 2003:

Sites visited, monitored, or naturalized by three Wilderness Rangers.

Selway River Trail # 4 from Wilderness Boundary near Selway Falls to Moose Creek:

203-36-06
 203-36-09
 203-36-16
 203-36-02
 203-36-03
 203-36-05
 203-36-04
 203-36-20
 203-36-21
 203-39-01
 203-07-01
 203-07-05
 203-07-03

Selway River Trail from Moose Creek to Shearer:

102-06-21
 102-06-22
 102-06-06
 102-06-26
 102-06-24
 102-06-25
 102-06-12
 103-13-08
 102-06-16

Moose Creek to Indian Lake (Trail #430)

205-10-01 Head of Trout Creek
 Outfitter Camp at head of Dog Creek
 102-02-08 Horse Fly Meadows
 102-02-08 Short Ridge

102-02-02 Indian Lake
Outfitter Camp at Indian Lake

Lost Horse to Battle Ridge (Trail#430 Wahoo Cr.; #463 to head Cox Cr.; #462 to Battle Cr.)

103-03-03
103-02-03
205-05-01
Outfitter Camp at Wahoo and Big Creek
Outfitter Camp on Battle Ridge

Lost Horse to Shearer (Tr. # 559-Spruce Creek to #522-Paradise Cr; #512-Cub Cr.; #516-Bear Creek)

103-06-01 Spruce Creek
103-06-02
103-15-02 Paradise
103-13-05 Cub Creek
Outfitter Camp at Cub and Bear Creeks

Shearer to Moose Creek (#523-Ditch Creek; #547 to Bitch Lake; #562-Moose Ridge)

203-08-02
203-08-01
Outfitter Camp on Moose Ridge

Head of Goat Creek from Elk Mt. Trailhead:

101-01-01

Tr. # 421

Outfitter camp on East Moose above Moose Lake
Outfitter camp in meadows at Three Forks (above E. Moose and N. Moose confluence)
Outfitter camp at Trout Creek

Junction #601 and #662

Outfitter camp near Otter Butte

Head of Otter Creek

Outfitter Camp north of Copper Butte tr. # 602

From boundary with Lochsa-Powell- Tr. # 206 to Two Lakes; Rhoda Creek and N. Moose- Tr.#263;tr.#
465; tr.# 620; tr.# 618:

Outfitter Camp at Wounded Doe
204-14-11 Two Lakes
204-14-09
203-14-12
204-14-02 Rhoda Creek
Outfitter Camp on Rhoda Cr.
204-13-05
204-14-15
204-18-06
204-10-02 North Moose

Problem Sites monitored in 2003:

Moose Creek in the vicinity of the airfield and station: Condition remains static.
 Two Lakes: about 4 sites in the area; fewer sites than 8 reported
 Elbow Bend: Site cleaned and naturalized, fewer sq. ft. barren area
 Cedar Flats: One moderate to heavy site
 Indian Lake: 2 heavy sites recovering to moderate; outfitter camp remains static

APPENDIX

SELWAY RIVER FLOAT USE - 2003

COMMERCIAL:

	PEOPLE		USE DAYS	
	GUESTS	GUIDES	GUESTS	GUIDES
American River Touring Association	39	18	195	90
Northwest River Expeditions	44	16	264	97
Three Rivers Rafting	32	16	160	70
Whitewater Adventures	40	11	207	56
TOTAL	155	61	826	313

NON-COMMERCIAL:

YEAR	PEOPLE	USE DAYS
2003	485	2640

TOTAL COMMERCIAL AND NON-COMMERCIAL USE:

YEAR	PEOPLE	USE DAYS
2003	699	3678

COMMERCIAL PARTY SIZE		PRIVATE PARTY SIZE	
# Parties	Size	# Parties	Size
11	14-16	12	15-16
3	12-13	12	11-14
1	8-10	15	6-10
		5	1-5
Average Party Size - 10			
TOTAL	15 PERMITS (25% commercial)	TOTAL	44 PERMITS (75% non-commercial)

NOTE: 2003 snow pack was at 100% of normal on April 28.
 ACCESS: Nez Perce Pass was opened on May 28, 2003. (opened by grader)
 INITIAL DRAWING: There were no open dates after the initial drawing.
 ACTUAL USE (due to reassignments, etc):
 0 launch dates reassigned after lottery
 6 launch dates reassigned after March 15 deadline
 4 launch dates reassigned to people who had not sent in an application

5/15-Cancelled, family crisis (water level 4.0)	5/30-Cancelled, high water (water level 9.7)
5/17-Cancelled, high water (water level 4.5)	5/31-Cancelled, high water (water level 9.2)
5/18-Cancelled, high water (water level 3.7)	6/1-Cancelled, high water (water level 8.1)
5/23-Cancelled, road not open (water level 4.6)	6/2-Cancelled, high water (water level 8.0)
5/25-Cancelled, high water (water level 8.5)	6/3-Cancelled, high water (water level 7.4)
5/26-Cancelled, high water (water level 9.2)	6/4-Cancelled, high water (water level 6.7)
5/27-Cancelled, high water (water level 8.9)	7/26-No Show, low water (water level .9)
5/28-Cancelled, high water (water level 9.1)	7/28-No Show, low water (water level .8)
5/29- Cancelled, high water (water level 9/9)	7/30-Cancelled, low water (water level .76)
	7/31-Cancelled, low water (water level .68)

Summary: 19 unused days in 2003

Two volunteers at Paradise on Saturdays through Mondays and holidays from May 28 through August.

APPLICATION INFORMATION:

Selway input: 1517 applications for 2003

2003-Selway received 151 requests for applications: 118 phone, 8 written, 25 walk-in
sent 169 applications (phone requests don't cover calls wanting internet address)