Selway Bitterroot Wilderness
2004 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.

CONTACTS/ DISTRICT RANGERS

Bitterroot National Forest	
Dave Campbell - West Fork Ranger District	406-821-3269
Chuck Oliver - Darby Ranger District	406-821-3913
Jeanne Higgins - Stevensville Ranger District	406-777-5461
Clearwater National Forest	
Cynthia Lane - Lochsa Ranger District	208-926-4275
Joni Packard - Powell Ranger District	208-942-3113
Nez Perce National Forest	
Joe Hudson - Moose Creek Ranger District	208-926-4258

Hardcopies of this report can be obtained from:

Andy Hibbs
Lead Wilderness Ranger
Nez Perce National Forest
Moose Creek Ranger District
HCR 75 Box 91
Kooskia, ID 83530

THE RANGER'S PERSPECTIVE

Greetings! Enclosed you will find the 2004 State of the Wilderness Report for the 1.3 million acre Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area.

2004 marked the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Wilderness Act of 1964 creating the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). There is much to celebrate!

When the Wilderness Act was passed in 1964, 54 areas encompassing 9.1 million acres in 13 states were designated as Wilderness. These areas established the NWPS. Since 1964, the System has grown almost every year and now includes 677 areas encompassing 106.5 million acres in 44 states. That's an additional 623 areas representing 97.4 million acres in 31 additional states over 40 years. Not bad!

2004 also marked the beginning of the Chief's 10 Year Wilderness Challenge. The goal of the Challenge is to have all Forest Service wilderness areas managed to standard by 2014. Managed to standard means a wilderness area must meet at least 6 of 10 identified wilderness stewardship standards. These standards include important components of wilderness stewardship including education plan implementation, fire use plans, invasive plants treatment, recreation site inventory, air quality monitoring, and establishment of a baseline wilderness workforce among others. Nationally this is a huge task, especially during times of declining budgets and workforce. Nationally only 8% (33 out of 406 wilderness areas) currently meet the criteria as managed to standard. Fortunately we are in better shape here in the Northern Region. Six of the thirteen (46%) Northern Region wilderness areas are currently managed to standard. However, our goal is higher. We are not satisfied with 60% (6 of 10 standards), our goal is to meet all 10 wilderness stewardship standards for all 13 wilderness areas by 2014.

The Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness currently meets 6 of the 10 stewardship standards and thus meets the criteria for managed to standard. One of the standards we are not currently meeting is the ability to successfully treat invasive plant species, especially new invaders encroaching from outside wilderness. Managers of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness have identified invasive plant species as a serious threat to the "natural" conditions attribute of wilderness character. Consequently meeting this stewardship standard is a high priority. There are still many weed free areas to protect within the SBW. We owe it to future generations to act now. We will soon begin a dialogue with all of our shareholders in the Selway-Bitterroot on how we can best address this threat. Your input and ideas will be an important component of this endeavor.

2004 also marked the publishing of the Forest Service Wilderness Monitoring Committee's draft framework for "*Monitoring Selected Conditions Related to Wilderness Character*." This is a good piece of work that identifies four qualities of wilderness related to wilderness character using the definition of wilderness in Section 2(c) of Wilderness Act. The framework identifies methods to measure and monitor our efforts over time in meeting our mandate to preserve wilderness character. The four attributes of wilderness character identified include "Untrammeled", "Natural", "Undeveloped", and "Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation".

So Happy 40th to the Wilderness Act and the National Wilderness Preservation System. May you continue to grow and flourish. We should all take a little time to reflect and feel proud of the accomplishments made in wilderness stewardship over the past 40 years. However, more importantly we must continue to push forward in addressing the many challenges that face our wilderness resource today and in the future, to ensure wilderness remains an enduring and perpetual resource. In the words of Howard Zahniser, author of the Wilderness Act; *"We are working for a wilderness forever."*

Sincerely;

Joe B. Hudson
District Ranger, Moose Creek Ranger District

Nez Perce National Forest

2004 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 2004, 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:			
	Bitterroot NF	**Clearwater NF**	**Nez Perce NF**	**Total**
SBW acres	512,050	268,932	559,699	**1,340,681**
# Wilderness Rangers	4	2	2 +1 river ranger	**9**
# Volunteer Hours	479	1569	2065	**4113**
Total Miles SBW Trails	458.8	310.3	706.6	**1,475.7**
Miles SBW Trail Maintained	328	214.5	325.1	**867.6**
# Campsites Monitored	87	80	106	**273**

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. One trail reconstruction crew and a Level 1 Trail Maintenance crew also spent portions of their time in the Wilderness. Wilderness Rangers also focused on trail condition surveys, some of them 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. Other access portals used included Lochsa Peak, Warm Springs, Mocus, Eagle Mountain, Kooskooskia Meadows, and Tom Beal. In addition to the 2 rangers, a 5 person Wilderness Trail Crew operated in the SBW during a portion of the 2004 field season.

Nez Perce National Forest

One wilderness ranger was based at Moose Creek RS from April through November, with one month devoted to work with volunteers in the Crags area. One wilderness ranger was based at Lost Horse Guard Station from July through October. The lead wilderness ranger was required to fulfill duties of a vacant resource assistant position (to be filled in spring 2005), which limited his time in the field. A 2 person trail crew operated out of Moose Creek from June-August. The construction crew (5-3 persons) worked on various trail projects throughout the Moose Creek District.

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 1,665 applications received in 2004, 55 private permits and 16 commercial permits were granted, which accounted for a total 738 people and 3,956 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 7 unused days during the 2004 control period.

In 2004 snow pack was at 88% of normal on April 28. Nez Perce Pass was opened with a grader on April 29, 2004. 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 2004 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 in 2004, a total of 832.9 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 *NOT* 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
Maintenance Level	I	II	III	I	II	III	I	II	III	I	II	III	
Bitterroot NF:													
Miles Maintained	0	0	0	133	0	0	85	9	4	71	11	5	**318**
Total Miles	26.9			220			132.3			79.6			458.8
Clearwater NF:													
Miles Maintained	4.0	0	0	24.9	0	0	137.6	24.5	1.0	16	4	2.5	**214.5**
Total Miles	9.1*			31.6			261.2			23.4			325.3
Nez Perce NF:													
Miles Maintained	0	0	0	8.5	0	0	261.6	15	(200) ft	40	0	0	**325.1**
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, Tin Cup # 96, St. Mary's #116, Roaring Lion #124, Glen Lk. #232, Boulder Lake #249, Kootenai Lakes #302, Hauf Lk. #309, 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,Spot Mtn. #3, Indian Ridge #10, Nez Perce Indian #13.0, Upper Indian Creek #32, Schofield Ridge #34, Bad Luck Ridge #52, Little Rock Cr. #57, Sawtooth #123, South Fork Lost Horse #128, Parachute Ridge #536, Eagle Cr. #562.

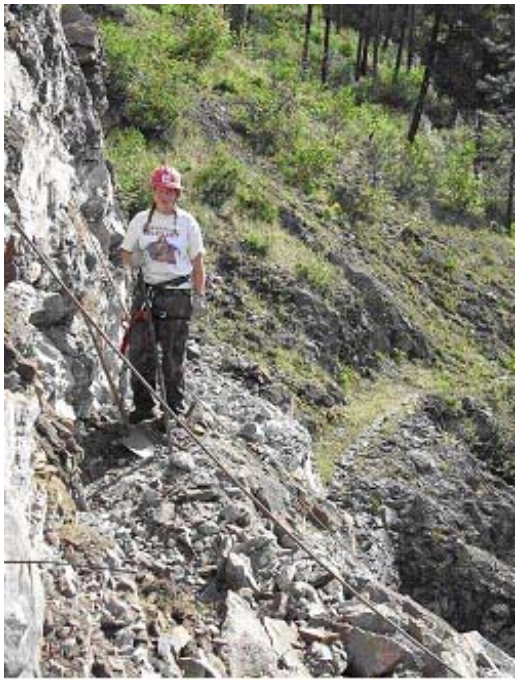
Capital investment project work was done on: Selway River #4, Mill Cr. 3364 and Eagle Cr. #562

Clearwater National Forest:

Boulder #211 (22.1 miles), Warm Springs #49 (9 miles), Surprise Creek #219 (7 miles), Eagle Mountain #206 (30 miles), Big Sand #4 (12 miles), Colt Killed Creek #50 (11 miles), Long Lake #205 (7.5 miles), Split Creek #133 (6.8 miles), Indian Meadows #208 (2.7 miles), Lochsa Peak #220 (10.5miles), Greenside Butte #222 (5 miles), Gold Hill #247 (7 miles), Rock Creek #2210 (5 miles), Big Sand Creek #1 (6.1 miles), Pouliot #30 (4.5 miles), Friday Pass #45 (3 miles), Siah Lake #59 (9.1 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 (6.1 miles), and Maple Lake #939 (7.6 miles), Garnet #43 3.7miles),White Sand Lake #51 (2.2 miles), Spruce Lake Creek #63 (4 miles), Sponge Creek #209 (3 miles), McConnell Mtn. #226 (6 miles), Cliff Creek #226 (4.5 miles), Pedro Ridge #917 (4.5 miles)

* Trails occurring along the outer SBW boundary of the Clearwater NF and adjacent to Opportunity Class 1 compartments have been recorded as miles of trail in OC1. These miles may or may not fall officially within the OC1 compartment.
Clearwater Forest total forest miles have increased by 21.6 from miles reported in 2003 to adjust for findings of trail condition surveys.

Nez Perce National Forest:
Copper Butte #602, Disgrace Butte #609, Selway River #4, Bilk Mtn.#517, Upper Buck Lake #628, Running Creek #533, Archer Mountain #529, Moose Ridge #562, East Moose #421, Big Rock #693, Lost Horse #430, Cove Lakes #3, Bear Creek #516, Ditch Creek #523, Wounded Doe #465, Double Ridge #442, Shissler #450, Eagle Rock #520, Bear Wallow #606, Indian Lake # 631, Fish Lake Connection #263. Below are photos of Moose Creek Construction Crew repairing Selway River Trail.



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	12	14	5	**21**
# Audience members reached	506	765	335	**1606**

Bitterroot National Forest

At the Wilderness Rendezvous Bitterroot personnel taught 40 Forest Service Wilderness Rangers, wilderness staff and line officers how to teach the Wilderness Skills Trail program using propos, activities and interactive discussion while minimizing lecture. They described the "flow learning" concept and taught how to plan presentations that adapt to audience, setting and time available.

The Wilderness Skills Trail program includes interactive discussions to 5th and 6th grade students at the Charlie Water Campground Nature Trail. Activities include: Wilderness history, natural history, philosophy, ethics and a variety of Leave No Trace principles.

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. Traditional tool skills (saw and axe) were taught to the Forest range crew. Contacted incoming hunters at Nez Perce Pass the week before hunting season to provide information on Leave No Trace, Fair Chase, noxious weeds, the Magruder Corridor and fire.

Clearwater National Forest

See appendix for detailed information of audiences, numbers topics, and presenters

Nez Perce National Forest

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 stationed at Elk Summit and Lost Horse the first week of hunting season contacted hunters to provide information about low impact camping with stock.

A wilderness ranger stationed at Moose Creek RS contacted hunters, pilots, outfitters and other visitors to discuss LNT principles.

A frontliner set up a display and discussed wilderness information with visitors at the Nez Perce County Fair.

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 2004.

The following information provides a synopsis of the volunteer efforts in the SBW during 2004.

	Bitterroot NF	Clearwater NF	Nez Perce NF	Totals
# Volunteers	27	50	35	**112**
# Volunteer Hours	765	1549	2065	**4379**

Bitterroot National Forest

An environmental education student volunteered 106 hours to do campsite monitoring and naturalization as well as make visitor contacts and conduct trail surveys.

Back Country Horsemen members volunteered 723 hours on the Bitterroot National Forest. Chuck Miller and assistants packed the Level 1 trail crew in and out of wilderness on a regular basis, helping free Forest Service packers for other projects. Julie and Dave Schram once again helped with repairs and restoration on historic Cooper's Cabin and did trail work as well. The BCH helped open trials and teamed up to rebuild the rock retaining wall at the Rock Creek Bridge.

Jeff and Chris McGee once again staffed the Paradise Guard Station for the entire summer. They helped with campground clean-up, building fence, pulling and inventorying weeds, taking care of the Magruder facility, talking to Wilderness visitors and checking Selway River floater permits.

Clearwater National Forest

Two former wilderness rangers volunteered three days to conduct campsite inventories; a former district employee volunteered 8 hours to clear trail; and a national park manager from South Africa contributed 16 hours to assist with field work.

Back Country Horsemen: North Central Chapter- Fourteen BCH members assisted in successfully completing a feedbunk project carried over from 2003. Members helped deliver and assemble the bunks at the Tom Beal trailhead; contributed 42 field hours.

North Central chapter member Ivan Hendren contributed 64 volunteer hours to clearing trailing and working on hitch rails and cabin repairs during his annual trip to Fish Lake.

Wilderness Skills Trail leaders: Nine 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 72 volunteer hours

American Hiking Society: Six individuals contributed 288 work hour to clear 143 trees, clean 89 drain, brush 200 ft. of trail, and reconstruct 50 ft. of tread on Trail #10 to Hidden Lake. They also did 2.5 miles of trail condition survey on the Bridge Cr. Trail.

Elk Summit Guard Station: Three individuals volunteered as station guards at Elk Summit for approximately 40 days. All returnees, contributed 576 hours to maintain a presence at this heavily used wilderness portal.

Fish Lake Airstrip: Four volunteers contributed 400 hours to provide visitor information, assist with air strip maintenance, and monitor air traffic.

Horse Care Volunteers: Nine district employees volunteered 35 hours between May and November to help feed and care for stock after their regular working 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 2004, the following groups continued to provide invaluable resources:

Back Country Horsemen- The North Central Idaho Chapter continues to support the wilderness program with a variety of expertise- wilderness education for adults, students and hunters; trail maintenance; facility maintenance; support packing; weed inventories; clean-up of campsites. At the beginning of hunting season, BCH members were available at trailheads to disseminate information about low impact camping with stock; also they checked hunters for weed seed free hay at Wilderness portals. Worthy of note are Roger Inghram who contributed 216 hours in the field and Ivan Hendren who worked 552 hours, just on the Moose Creek District.

Iowa Students- Twelve high school students and three adult leaders from Iowa cleared trail and did erosion control and campsite inventories in the Crags area. Below is a photo of the student group. This is the tenth consecutive season this organization has volunteered in the SBW.

Selway River raft guides- Nine expert boatmen assist the river ranger on patrols each season. They also help naturalize river campsites and pull weeds. They contributed 64 volunteer days in 2004

Hosts at Moose Creek Ranger Station- In 2004, the volunteer host program expanded. Thirteen people were involved from May through October. One to three persons were available for two-week periods, to provide visitors with historical and geographic information, record aircraft activity, and assist with general maintenance around the station. Their presence enabled wilderness rangers to spend added time in the field.

FIRE

A total of 37 fires burned 1666.8 SBW acres during 2004; all were lightning- ignited. Fire events ranged in size from .1 acre up to 1093.6.

	Bitterroot NF	Clearwater NF	Nez Perce NF	Totals
# SB Wilderness Fire Events	11	2	24	**37**
# lightning caused	11	2	24	**37**
# Acres burned	573	.2	1093.6	**1666.8**
Range in size of fires (acres)	.1-380	-.1	.1 to 882.4	
# Mechanical Use Authorizations granted?	1	1	None	**2**

In some instances, fires ignited by lightning in the SBW are 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 2004 fire season was relatively quiet. Several small lightning strikes flared up and died down without becoming established on the ground. Nine fires were put into Wildland Fire Use status. Tin Cup View fire was controlled.

Nez Perce National Forest

One hundred per cent of wilderness fires in 2004 on the Nez Perce NF were managed as Wildland Fire Use (WFU) with no mechanical assistance.

Clearwater National Forest

In 2004, there were only 2 recorded lightning strikes, one each on the Powell and Lochsa Districts. Both were managed as Wildland Fire Use and covered less than two acres combined.

There was one authorization for mechanical use on the Kalling fire, adjacent to the wilderness. Turbulence and high winds made access to water sources outside the wilderness unsafe. As an emergency situation, District Ranger authorized helicopter to draw water from Siah Lake, inside the SBW.

See appendix for detailed wilderness fire data.

WILDERNESS DAMS

There are 16 privately operated dams in the Selway-Bitterroot NF, all located on the Bitterroot National Forest. Historically, these dams were authorized under special use permits. Some dams qualify for easement while easement status is still in question for others. Many of the dams were constructed 100 years ago and are showing their age. The valley is far more populated and developed than it was 100 years ago so the risks to downstream occupants and property has increased substantially. The situation is also complicated by modern safety requirements. Dam activities in 2004 involved routine maintenance on some dams, and reconstruction of Canyon Dam to address safety issues, after a partial breach in 2003.

Chainsaws were used at Tin Cup Lake. In early summer, a helicopter was authorized for access to Tin Cup Dam, but the permittees were able to access it on foot.

The Montana Conservation Corps, as in 2003, accomplished most of the work at Canyon Dam using non-mechanized tools. Heavy rains in September jeopardized the crew's ability to complete work before winter. Heavy equipment was then flown in to finish.

Chainsaws were used at Bass Lake and Big Creek Lakes and Mill Lake.

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 that 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				
(See narrative for # days Monitored)	**Clearwater NF**	**Nez Perce NF**		**Total**
	Fish Lake	**Moose Cr.**	**Shearer**	
Private	**27**	**610**	**No monitoring**	**637**
Administrative for Facility	**3**	**9**	**--**	**12**
Other Administrative	**0**	**68**	**--**	**68**
Fire	**0**	**4**	**--**	**4**
Outfitters	**14**	**149**	**--**	**163**
Other	**0**	**0**	**--**	**0**
Total	**44**	**840**	**--**	**884**

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 12 to November 20. Volunteer hosts staffed the Ranger Station, recorded flights and provided low impact camping information for pilots.

Total recorded aircraft landings in 2004 were up by 154 flights from the 686 recorded in 2003. Private pilot use was up by 45 flights and other administrative flights increased by 35. "Other administrative" flights refer to those by Idaho Fish and Game, USGS, and other field (university) research teams. Outfitter flights increased by 75 flights. On a three-year trail basis, outfitters may overlap use of their areas to encourage bear hunting and limit predation to elk. This accounts for an increase in those flights. The overall use shows an upward trend. There were 295 more landings

in 2004 than in 2000. 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 June 22 to Oct 18th during 2004. One volunteer monitored landings at the airstrip from July 3-11. This volunteer was unable to return for monitoring schedule for August. Other volunteers resumed monitoring by Sept. 3 and continued with intermittent breaks through Oct. 7. Of the 26 day the airstrip was monitored in 2004, there were 6 days with no recorded landings; other days landing did not exceed 4 per day.

This was the third consecutive year that landings were monitored in an effort to understand airstrip use. Staffing has varied considerably each year in conjunction with volunteer availability. Thus, monitoring results do not constitute a statistically random sample of days during the accessible season.

An airstrip safety inspection was preformed on June 22. Volunteers conducted maintenance that included filling gopher holes; replacing windsocks; repairing signs, hitch rails, and the cabin.

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-Bitterrroot 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.

	START DATE OF ACTIVITY	TYPE OF USE	MINIMUM REQUIREMENT DECISION USED?
Bitterroot NF	9/1/2004	Chainsaw, helicopter landings, bucket use at Tin cup View fire	Y
	Not used	Helicopter access at Tin Cup Dam	Y
	10/27/2004	Chainsaw for Tin Cup Dam maintenance	Y
	Fall 2004	Helicopter access, generator, concrete vibrator, wacker, mini excavator for Canyon Dam reconstruction	Y
Clearwater NF	8/06/2004	Kalling Fire helicopter: emergency	Y
Nez Perce NF	4/08/2004	Trail Construction Rock Drill/Blasting	Y
	4/28/2004	Communication emergency Shissler LO	N
	6/23/2004	Communication emergency Shissler LO	N

-

Integrated Weed Management Planning and Implementation

The Wilderness remains vulnerable to a host of new invasive weed species arrayed around its perimeter in Montana and Idaho. Recent habitat type risk assessment mapping shows that the invasive plant situation has the potential to worsen dramatically without an intensified program of prevention and treatment. Most counties and national Forest Units adjacent to the SBW are ramping up their integrated weed management programs consistent with the growing national concern about invasive species.

In 1995, the four National Forest Supervisors charged with managing the SBW signed an Environmental Assessment decision addressing vegetation condition issues inside the Wilderness. The decision established goals and objectives for maintaining native plant composition and diversity through eradicating new noxious weed populations and containing/reducing existing invasive infestations. The 1995 decision left the task of implementation to a future time.

In 2004, the SBW Policy Council decided that the time had arrived to move more energetically towards the goal of sustaining native plant communities and actively managing the invasive weed threat. The Policy Council directed the lead working group to develop a plan for an integrated invasive plant implementation Environmental Impact Statement covering the entire SBW. In late 2004, work began on logistics, public involvement panning, role assignments and internal issues for the EIS.

Concurrent with the advancing of the EIS, the inventory and mapping effort added new coverage on over 5,000 acres using a crew from he University of Idaho. The good news is that there is still over one and a quarter million acres that is weed-free in the Wilderness. Unfortunately, spotted knapweed now dominates about 90,000 acres, mostly on the Selway River drainage. It holds the top position for invasive plants at this time. Sulfur cinquefoil is the next serious threat but occupies less than 1500 acres. Ox-eye daisy and St. Johnswort are in the early stages of expansion long with several other species noted below.

Promising biological control results on spotted knapweed are emerging from trials begun by the Montana State University Research Center and reports from other release sites.

Bitterroot National Forest

The noxious weed management program on the forest includes monitoring, education and treatment of noxious and invasive weeds in the SBW. 2004 saw the second year of implementation of herbicide treatment along Westside canyon trails 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 goat weed (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 2004, the University of Idaho crew inventoried about 1,000 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. The Bitterroot Chapter of the Backcountry Horseman expressed an interest in participation in an early detection program for new invasive species.

During 2004 field season, twenty-two trails with a portion of 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. Watch Tower trail was treated for the first time 2004. Trails that were sprayed in previous years generally needed between 1-4 acres treated depending on the length of the system. Some of these trails are treated for the first time in 2003. 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 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 30 acres within the SBW with herbicide along the 22 trails treated**.**

Clearwater National Forest

For the second consecutive year, wilderness rangers had assistance monitoring, mapping and pulling noxious weeds. The work that the Student Conservation Corps began in 2003 continued in 2004 with help of students from the University of Idaho. The most common weeds found were spotted knapweed, St. Johnswort, and sulfur cinquefoil. A variety of thistles, oxeye daisy and wooly mullen were also identified. When rangers and crews encountered small concentrations of weeds, the patches were hand-grubbed and recorded for future monitoring.

The Clearwater anticipates starting a weeds environmental assessment (EA) for lands outside the SBW in 2005 on the Powell and Lochsa Districts. This will help reduce the spread of weeds from main corridors outside the wilderness into the SBW.

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. 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 star thistle 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 is processed and integrated into the weed spatial layer. The survey is ongoing and results will be summarized after completion of the project. In 2004, students from the University of Idaho spent two hitches to continue the SCA inventory and mapping project.

Treatment: As in 2003, the Indian hill, Fog Mountain and Race Creek trailheads and stock facilities were sprayed in 2004. 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 pulled 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. Again in 2004, these agents are distributed along the Selway River Trail 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. In 2004, personnel at Elk Summit and Lost Horse portals checked 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.

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 and 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 2004.

Bitterroot National Forest

In 2004, repairs were made to the old stock ramps at Mill Creek and at Bear Creek Pass. The stock ramp at Tin Cup was replaced; and at St. Mary's, improvements were made to the stock ramp constructed by the BCH in 2003, ramp by adding more gravel.

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.

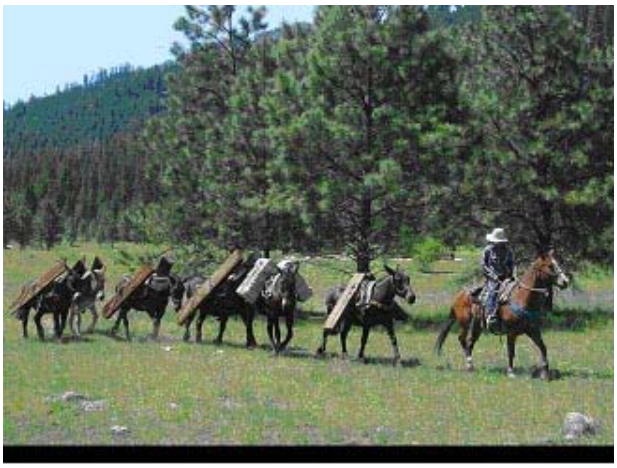
Nez Perce National Forest

Feed bunks and tie-ups constructed by the North Central Idaho Back Country Horsemen and Trapper Creek Job Corps were placed at Slim's Camp in 2004. Plans are to reconstruct bridges at

Cupboard Creek and Three Links Creek were postponed until 2007. A public field trip to examine those bridges is scheduled for 2004.

Reconstruction of trail head facilities at Fog Mtn. and Indian Hill are scheduled for 2005.

Below: Moose Creek District packing bridge materials.



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 adjacent (A) to the Wilderness. The following list identifies use at these sites during 2004.

Bitterroot National Forest

-St. Mary's Lookout: (W) Used for approximately 50 days.
-Cooper's Flat Cabin: (W) Used for approximately 15 days.
-Paradise: **(**A**)** Staffed from May 15 through October 15 with two volunteers who were there 7 days a week. .

Clearwater National Forest:

-Horse Camp: (W) Used approximately 28 days by trail crews and wilderness rangers
-Fish Lake Guard Station: (W) Staffed approximately 29 days for airstrip monitoring and backcountry patrol.
-Diablo Lookout: (W) Intact structure, not staffed
-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) Intact structure awaiting OSHA upgrades; not staffed.
-Beaver Ridge Lookout: (A) Intact structure; staffed June 22-Sept.28..
-Lochsa Historic Station: (A) Intact structure; staffed by volunteers from May to Oct
-Elk Summit Guard Station: (A) Staffed by volunteers from June 28 to Sept 13th. Used approximately 45 days by volunteers and staff.
-Colt Creek Cabin: (A) Deteriorating cabin, not staffed

Nez Perce National Forest

-Shearer Guard Station: (W) Not staffed. Fire crews spent one hitch to do runway maintenance as prescribed by Region runway inspection.

Moose Creek Ranger Station: (W) Staffed from April 9 through Nov. 20. From June through Oct., volunteers served as hosts.

Shissler LO: (W) Staffed from July through Sept.

Gardiner LO: (W) Staffed from July through Sept.

Lost Horse Guard Station: (A) Wilderness ranger operations June 15 through hunting season (Nov 1); volunteer for two weeks for information and check weed seed free hay

Indian Hill LO: (A) Staffed from July through Sept.

Coolwater LO: (A) Staffed from July through Sept.

Selway Falls Guard Station:

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

USGA Spotted Frog Research in Sweeney Creek drainage. Bryce Maxwell-406-777-0065. Population dynamics of endemic Spotted Frog population research is ongoing 2000-2004.

RMRS wolverine study in Blodgett, Mill and Fred Burr, Bear and Big Creek draingage. Jeff Copeland: 406-542-4165.

Fisheries effectiveness monitoring for INFISH and PACFISH, is being conducted by the Forest Serive-wide Fish and Aquatic Ecology Unit. Forest Inventory Analysis Plots are still being monitored as well. Contact for all projects on the Bitterroot is Pete Zimmerman at 406-363-7120.

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.

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. Crews continued to monitor in 2004.

Again in 2004, 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 are important for understanding fish survival from juvenile to adult and for tracking migratory activity in the Columbia River Basin.

The cooperative study in the Selway River basin between the Nez Perce National Forest and the University of Montana Wild Trout and Salmon Genetics Laboratory continued in 2004. A formal joint venture agreement between both entities was finalized and signed. Additional field sampling occurred, and laboratory analysis of the samples was completed for several areas. *(See appendix for details)*

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 2004, a total of 37 incidents were reported in the SBW and 1 violation notices were issued. A breakdown of incidents is provided below:

	Bitterroot NF	Clearwater NF	Nez Perce NF	Total
# Law Enforcement Personnel	3	2	1	**6**
# Incident reports written	30	6	2	**37**
# Warning/Violation notices written	0	0	3	**3**

Bitterroot National Forest

Incidents:

205 Minor Litter
1 Excessive litter (beyond microtrash)
1 Sanitation (food or digested food)
1 Vandalism or theft to signs/registration boxes
1 Constructed Facilities
1 Damage to Natural Resources (salting)
1 Snowmobile Trespass
1 Motorcycle Trespass
2 Bicycle trespass
2 Stock damage to trees

Clearwater National Forest

Incident Reports:
1 lost hiker (Stanley Hot Springs)
2 garbage left in Wilderness (Warm Springs Crossing, Colt Killed trail
1 game cart abandoned in Wilderness (trail 77)
1 illegally cut "user" trail (damage to live vegetation off trail #5)
1 Cut or damage to green trees
Hidden Creek damage-investigation pending

Nez Perce National Forest

Incidents:
1 alleged meth lab
1 boater fatality on Selway River
1 warning issued for unauthorized use of chainsaw
1 packs and materials dumped along trail in wilderness by outfitter
1 camping in an restricted area (outfitter)
1 violation notice written for resource damage

OUTFITTERS

Thirty-seven outfitters operated under special use permits in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness during 2004. 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	**18**	**58**	**4**
Clearwater NF	**5**	**8**	**6**
Nez Perce NF	**14**	**26**	**6**
Total	**37**	**92**	**16**

Bitterroot National Forest

The Bitterroot National Forest had a total of 18 outfitters who used the Selway Bitterroot as all or part of their operations in 2004. Of that total 4 were river outfitters. A total of 58 camps were used in the SBW with 4 adjacent to the SBW. 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.

.

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 or 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.

Wilderness rangers sometimes assisted by volunteers, monitor both site and social indicators 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 districts 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 2004, rangers visited and monitored 273 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	75	90	See notes below	
# Visitors Contacted	214	261	900	**1419**

Bitterroot National Forest

Registration boxes, approximately 25, were installed at all major west-side canyon trailheads. The INFRAWILD database has a program specific to trailhead registration but it has not yet been modified to match our collected information.

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

Clearwater National Forest

The following encounter summary includes only those individuals contacted while rangers where in the SBW. During 2004, rangers were on the trail for 25 more days than during the previous two seasons, but encountered fewer individuals than is 2002. Encounter numbers in 2004 were higher than the number of encounters in 2003. A large portion of the Forest was closed for a month during 2003 because of fire. Encounter numbers were highest on the Boulder Cr. Trail and the trail to Big Sand Lake. * Repeat encounters = same group of individuals during the same trip. *See appendix for details of visitor registration information.*

Clearwater Rangers 2004 SBW Encounters		
	Total # of	
	Groups	**People**
Day Hikers	19	68
Backpackers	27	74
Equestrian	21	57
Outfitters	12	*RE
Contractors	2	3
Admin	6	11
Pilots/other	3	4
Total	**90**	**261**

Nez Perce National Forest

Trail encounters are difficult to measure on trails emanating from and campsites around Moose Creek. Groups of boaters, outfitted hunters and pilots are involved. There are numerous repeat encounters and varieties of situations. Moose Creek District has yet to define a system that accurately reflects use at this portal. It is a unique situation. 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 87 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

In 2004, 80 campsites were inventoried using the LAC process, which accounted for approximately 50% of the 160 backlog of inventories on the 2004 schedule. By the end of 2005, the Clearwater NF will have caught up with the backlog and will be back on a regular schedule of inventorying each site every five years. Currently, any area previously identified as a "problem area" is still considered as such. With monitoring back on track, it will be possible for rangers to ground truth these areas and compile more complete trend analysis information.

In the last three years, 224 sites have been inventoried. Of those, approximately 17% of the sites checked are no longer evident. Roughly 58% of sites are exhibiting stable trends, 13% of those still evident have decreased in impact rating and 11% have increase in impact rating by one severity level. See appendix for specific site information,

Problem areas:

Seven Lakes: Wilderness manages reviewed the original campsite designations at Seven Lades with researcher David Spildie. New campsite and highline signs were ordered and will be installed during the "05 season as will additional area restriction signs at all entrances to the lakes basin. Sites previously identified with heavy stock impacts prior to implementation of the special area regulations are recovering. While there were some new stock impacts, managers anticipate that revitalizing signage will again direct users to designated locations and minimum impacts. No problems with grazing were evident this year.

Stanley Hot Springs: This is one of the most heavily used areas in the Clearwater's portion of the SBW. The area immediately adjacent to the springs is completely void of small, down woody debris. Firewood collection is the primary cause of vegetation change. Also, visitors have been felling 10"+ snags for wood and continue to cut live branches. Keeping the number of fire rings to a minimum and stopping damage to live vegetation are the most immediate concerns. While sanitation issues are a concern, given the number of visitors to this site, there didn't appear to be a problem with waste on the ground surface. The impacts to wildlife are currently unknown. Visitors are relatively willing to complete travel logs. It may be beneficial to develop informational material directed at this user group to be displayed on trail head bulletin boards.

Big Sand Lake: The lake continues to draw considerable use and thus impacts to the campsites. Impacts from stock containment, erosion from water access, increasing barren core and decreasing understory vegetation, and encroachment of weeds are concerns that will require more management effort with help from key user groups.

Huckleberry Flat: This is the "horse camp" associated with Stanley Hot Springs. While the site has little barren core, knapweed and St. Johnswort have begun to out compete native vegetation. Hitch rails at site need maintenance and numbers of social trails need to be addressed.

Parachute Lake: This year, rangers discovered an unauthorized user trail to the lake, although there were no significant impacts to the lake. The trail was heavily blazed and numerous saplings were cut. The party responsible for resource damage was not identified.

Nez Perce National Forest

Wilderness rangers and volunteers monitored, cleaned or naturalized 106 campsites. 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. Problem areas identified in the Selway Bitterroot Management Direction were addressed. Conditions at Indian Lake, Bell Lake, Elbow Bend, Pinchot,Cove Lakes, Two Lakes, Big Rock Mountain and Cedar Flats are known to have shown an upward trend. (Details are in the appendix.) There are questions about the reliability of the original information at the confluence of Rhoda and Grotto creeks, an unnamed lake west of Emerald Lake, and Fish Lake Corridor. Other areas: Drake Saddle, Heath Creek, Lizard Lake, South Three Links, Barren Hill, S.McConnell Ridge, McConnell Mtn., Goat Lakes, west end Battle Ridge are on the monitoring schedule for 2005 and 2006. Presently, there are no known changes to the impact ratings at these locations.

Potential problem areas for numbers and impacts are Isaac Lake and Maple Lake. There is considerable visitor traffic in the Crags area originating mostly at Fog Saddle. Monitoring these areas for existence of new trails and new sites is important.

The area around Moose Creek is a management challenge since there are campsites near the airstrip, 3 to 4 sites traditionally used by raft groups along the Selway, a site outside the administrative compound and three other sites along Moose Creek. Sites at the airstrip get considerable use but remain in static condition. The sites along Moose Creek and above the station have seen considerably less use in the past five years. There is little to no barren core, but native vegetation has been replaced by knapweed.

AWARDS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Numerous volunteers and Forest Service employees contribute an immeasurable amount of dedication, hard work into the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness program each year. The following individuals and groups were recognized for their outstanding efforts in 2004.

Bitterroot National Forest

Bitterroot Back Country Horsemen: Received a certificate for continuing interest in the upkeep and management of trails on the Bitterroot National Forest. Members have shown for at least six years the need for and responsibility required to keep trails in a safe, passable condition.

Chuck Miller: Received a certificate in recognition of three years of voluntary animal packing services to the Bitterroot National Forest and in representing the local chapter of Backcountry Horsemen of America.

Tonya Drayton: Received a certificate in recognition for her responsiveness and timeliness in keeping track of all the Backcountry Horsemen's volunteer hours and participation.

Clearwater National Forest

Nine FS Employees: received keepsake awards and certificates for volunteering time to the Wilderness Skills Trail program. They presented wilderness awareness and Leave No Trace to over 200 elementary students from Grangeville, Cottonwood and Kooskia.

Roger and Janice Inghram, Gary Kolmback,and Dennis Dailey (all representing BCH): received keepsake awards and letters of appreciation for their dedicated efforts to see a long-term feed bunk project at the Tom Beal trailhead through to the end.

Ivan Hendren (BCH): received a set of leather tack from the Nez Perce National Forest and Clearwater National Forest. He was recognized for his longtime service to the Forest Service on multiple forests and districts. Ivan has consistently volunteered to maintain trails and act in whatever capacity to assist in the SBW for some seventy years!

Alecia and Craig Chase, Pam and Jim Brangan, John Richardson, Phil Ralston and daughter Amelia: received keepsake awards and letters of appreciation for their volunteer efforts as station volunteers and wilderness rangers. They shared their commitment and enthusiasm for wilderness by providing current area information, promoting Leave No Trace principles, and conducting trail, sign and cabin maintenance.

Nez Perce National Forest:

Ivan Hendren: The Nez Perce Forest joined with the Clearwater to recognize long-time volunteer Ivan Hendren by presenting him with a certificate and tack.

.

Links to Forest Web Sites

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

APPENDIX

Bitterroot National Forest

PROBLEM AREA MONITORING

STEVENSVILLE DISTRICT			
COMPARTMENT #	**PROBLEM AREAS**	**IMPACT LEVEL/TREND**	**SITE DENSITY**
1) Carlton #101	Y	The wilderness boundary sign has long been posted 200' south of the southeast corner of Carlton Lake. It	Vehicle access to Carlton was common prior to the early 1990's

		was later determined that the wilderness boundary is actually the south shoreline of the lake (which is a reservoir). Sites were monitored on the south shore of Carlton Lake for the first time this year. The trend, based on 10 years of informal assessment is that moderate and heavy sites persist. Light sites are now less obvious. OC #2 with 1 heavy and 3 moderate sites.	when a gate was installed on the McClain Creek Road. Since then lightly impacted sites have disappeared.
2) One Horse #102	N	No change	N/A
3) Sweeney #103	Y	No change	No change
4) Bass #104	Y		No change
5) Kootenai #105	Y	North Kootenai Lake went from 1mod, 1 heavy to 2 heavy. Middle Kootenai Lake split 1 heavy site into 2 heavy sites. South Kootenai Lake went from 2 extreme, 1 heavy, and 1 moderate to 3 extreme sites.	No real on the ground change in density (on the ground impacts) – but change in the way sites recorded.
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	Fire effects: 1 site went from heavy to extreme.	Fire effects: 3 sites recovered along the creek 1 new site beginning to show.
11) Blodgett Creek #111	Y	7 Mile Meadow: no change. 9 Mile Meadow: went from 1 heavy 2 moderate to 1 extreme, 2 light. Blodgett Lake went from 2 light, 1 heavy, 1 moderate to 3 heavy.	Slight decrease in density at Blodgett Lake.

12) S Fork Lolo #701	Y	No new data	No new data

PROBLEM AREA MONITORING

Darby District

COMPARTMENT #	PROBLEM AREAS	IMPACT LEVEL/TREND	SITE DENSITY
Canyon #201	Y	No new data	No change
Sawtooth #202	Y	No new data	NA
Roaring Lion #203	Y	No new data	NA
Lost Horse #204	Y	2 Sites improved 3 Sites remained stable 10 Sites with no new data	No change
Rock Creek #205	Y	2 Sites improved 2 Sites remained stable 25 Sites with no new data	No change
Little Rock Creek #206	Y	1 Site remained stable 20 Sites with no new data	No change
Tin Cup #207	Y	1 Site improved 2 Sites remained stable 1 Site deteriorated 18 Sites with no new data	No change
Chaffin #208	Y	No new data	No change
Trapper Creek #209	Y	No new data	NA

Stats for 2004: Darby + Stevi
Resource Compartments = 21
Total Resource sites = 264
Sites Listed as Recovered in 2004 = 5
Newly listed sites = 11
Extreme sites = 23
Heavy sites = 63
Moderate sites = 86
Light sites = 81

New problem area identified at Carlton Lake.

WEST FORK DISTRICT			
COMPARTMENT #	***PROBLEM AREA***	***IMPACT LEVEL***	***SITE DENSITY***
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
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

WEST FORK DISTRICT			
COMPARTMENT #	***PROBLEM AREA***	***IMPACT LEVEL***	***SITE DENSITY***
22) Little Clearwater #422	Y	SAME	S
23) Lodgepole #423	N	n/a	n/a
24) Salamander # 424	Y	SAME	S
25) Magruder #425	Y	SAME	S

Stats for 2004:
Resource Compartments = 25
Total Resource sites = 121
Sites inventoried in 2004 = 35

.

.

.

Clearwater National Forest

2004 Sites inventoried

Site # / LAC 04 rating		Site # / LAC 04 rating		Site # / LAC 04 rating		Site # / LAC 04 rating	
402-1-01	High	403-2-1	Medium	403-2-37	Medium	406-1-02	Light
402-1-02	High	403-2-07	Light	403-2-38	Medium	406-1-04	Medium
402-1-03	Medium	403-2-10	Light	403-3-07	Light	406-1-05	High
402-1-05	Light	403-2-12	Light	405-1-01	Light	406-1-06	Light
402-1-06	Medium	403-2-17	Extreme	405-2-01	Light	406-1-07	Extreme
402-2-01	Light	403-2-19	High	405-2-02	Medium	406-1-10	Light
402-2-02	Extreme	403-2-20	Light	405-2-03	Medium	406-1-16	High
402-2-03	Light	403-2-21	High	405-2-04	Medium	406-1-18	High
402-2-06	Medium	403-2-23	Light	405-2-05	Medium	406-1-25	Light
402-2-07	Light	403-2-25	Extreme	405-2-06	Light	406-1-26	Medium
402-2-08	Light	403-2-26	Medium	405-2-07	Light	406-1-27	Light
402-2-09	Light	403-2-27	Medium	405-2-08	Medium	406-3-M12	Extreme
402-2-10	Light	403-2-28	Medium	405-2-09	Light	407-2-02	Medium
402-3-01	Extreme	403-2-30	PS	405-2-15	Medium	407-2-03	Extreme
402-3-02	Light	403-2-31	PS	405-2-19	Light	407-2-06	Extreme
402-3-04	High	403-2-32	Light	405-2-M10	Extreme	407-2-14	High
402-3-11	PS	403-2-34	High	405-2-M11	Medium	407-2-15	PS
402-3-12	PS	403-2-35	Light	405-2-M12	Extreme	407-3-08	Medium
402-3-14	Light	403-2-36	High	405-2-M18	Light	507-1-01	Extreme
402-3-16	Light	403-2-39	Light	406-1-03	Light	507-1-02	Extreme

Nez Perce National Forest:

MOOSE CREEK DISTRICT

COMPARTMENT #	PROBLEM AREA	OC	IMPACT LEVEL/TREND	SITE DENSITY
Drake Saddle # 202	**Y**	**4**	**No new data**	**5 or 6 sites**
Heath Creek #204	**N**	**2**	**Improved**	**No indication of recent use**
Confluence Rhoda and Grotto Creek #204	**N**	**3**	**No campsite at this location**	**No evidence of sites previously listed**
Lizard Lake #204	**Y**	**2**	**No new data**	**3 moderate**
S. Three Links #203	**Y**	**2**	**No new data**	**5 light, 3moderate**
Barren Hill # 204	**Y**	**3**	**No new data**	**OG extreme**
S. McConnell Ridge #204		**2**	**No new data**	**OG heavy**
Indian Lake #102	**Y**	**3**	**Improved**	**1 extreme (outfitter) 2 moderate**
Bell Lake	**Y**	**3**	**Improved**	**3 moderate**
Unnamed lake w. of Emerald	**N**	**1**	**Does site exist?**	**(Remove) Not known**
McConnell Mtn. #204	**Y**	**3**	**No new data**	**1 heavy**

Moose Creek #205	**Y**	**4**	**Static**	**4 sites, 1 extreme, others moderate Does not include sites at airfield**
Elbow Bend at Monument Creek #205	**Y**	**3**	**Improved**	**1 heavy, 1 moderate, 1 light**
Goat Lakes #205	**N**	**1**	**Old fire camp and helispot**	**Not used since fire operations (remove)**
W. end of Battle Ridge #205		**1**	**No new data**	**Old OG camp**
Pinchot #203	**N**	**4**	**Improved**	**1 heavy, 1 light**
Cove Lakes #203	**Y**	**3**	**Improved**	**1 heavy, 2 light**
Two Lakes #204	**Y**	**3**	**Improved**	**1 heavy, 2 moderate**
Big Rock Mtn. #203	**N**	**3**	**Improved**	**1 moderate, 2 light**
Cedar Flats #203	**N**	**4**	**Improved**	**1 moderate**
Fish Lake Corridor ?	**?**	**?**	**Refers to what?**	**Remove from list**

SELWAY RIVER FLOAT USE - 2004

COMMERCIAL:

	PEOPLE		USE DAYS	
	GUESTS	GUIDES	GUESTS	GUIDES
American River Touring Association	36	15	166	75
Northwest River Expeditions	45	17	236	98
Three Rivers Rafting	42	18	202	84
Whitewater Adventures	48	16	252	84
TOTAL	171	66	856	341

NON-COMMERCIAL:

YEAR	PEOPLE	USE DAYS
2004	567	2759
2003	485	2640
2002	537	2725
2001	549	2929
2000	642	3097
1999	439	2072
1998	764	3348
1997	406	2011
1996	455	2245

TOTAL COMMERCIAL AND NON-COMMERCIAL USE:

YEAR	PEOPLE	USE DAYS
2004	738	3956
2003	699	3678
2002	752	3858
2001	711	3781
2000	820	3987
1999	611	2902
1998	947	4205
1997	563	2764

1996	620	3027

COMMERCIAL PARTY SIZE		PRIVATE PARTY SIZE	
# Parties	Size	# Parties	Size
13	14-16	14	15-16
2	12-13	16	11-14
1	8-10	16	6-10
		9	1-5

Average Party Size - 11			
TOTAL	16 PERMITS (23% commercial)	TOTAL	55 PERMITS (77% non-commercial)

NOTE: 2004 snow pack was at 88% of normal on April 28.
ACCESS: Nez Perce Pass was opened on April 29, 200. (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
3 launch dates reassigned after March 15 deadline
1 launch dates reassigned to people who had not sent in an application

5/15 Cancelled, couldn't put trip together (water level 2.7)
5/16 No Show (water level 2.8)
5/26 Cancelled, injury (water level 3.2)
7/21 No Show, low water (water level 1.0)
7/24 No Show, low water (water level 0.8)
7/27 Cancelled, low water (water level 0.7)
7/29 Cancelled, low water (water level 0.7)

Summary: 7 unused days in 2004

Two volunteers at Paradise on Saturdays through Mondays and holidays from May 14 through August.

APPLICATION INFORMATION:
Selway input: 1665 applications in 2004
1517 applications for 2003
1549 applications for 2002 (first year to accept credit cards)
1043 applications for 2001 (we still are unable to accept credit cards)
990 applications for 2000 (numbers were down because we don't accept credit cards)
1106 applications for 1999 (numbers were down because we don't accept credit cards)
1329 applications for 1998
1322 applications for 1997
1242 applications for 1996
1239 applications for 1995

2004–Selway received 99 request for applications: 61 phone, 8 written, 30 walk-in
sent 92 applications (phone requests don't cover calls wanting internet address)
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)
2002-Selway received 165 requests for applications: 122 phone, 31 written, 12 walk-in
sent 195 applications (phone requests don't cover calls wanting internet address)
2001-Selway received 213 requests for applications: 172 phone, 29 written, 12 walk-in)
sent 235 applications (phone requests don't cover calls wanting internet address)
2000-Selway received 315 requests for applications: 210 phone, 90 written, 15 walk-in)
sent 282 applications (phone requests don't cover calls wanting internet address)
1999-Selway received 402 requests for applications: 284 phone, 98 written, 20 walk-in
sent 410 applications (phone requests don't cover calls wanting internet address)
1998-Selway received 471 requests for applications: 350 phone, 91 written, 30 walk-in
sent 540 applications
1997-Selway received 500 requests for applications: 346 phone, 134 written, 20 walk-in
sent 511 applications
1996-Selway received 489 requests for applications: 327 phone, 152 written, 10 walk-in
sent 575 applications (first year application on internet)
1995-Selway received 562 requests for applications: 398 phone, 159 written, 5 walk-in
sent 675 applications

CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST EDUCATION SUMMARY

Audience	# in Audience	Message	Date	Speaker
6th graders	17	Winter preparedness	2-12-04	K.Edwards
6th grader	13	Winter preparedness	3-15-04	K.Edwards
FS at Resource Advisor Fire class	28	Wilderness concerns	4-1-04	K.Edwards
Montana Conservation Corps leaders	52	Basic horse sense & safety	4-12-04	K.Edwards J.West J.Beale
Montana Conservation Corps	52	Wilderness Awareness & LNT	4-12-04	K.Edwards
5th and 6th graders	112	Wilderness Skills Trail	5-23,25 6-3-04	K.Edwards K.Foss
Powell RD Employees (orientation)	38	Intro to Rec & Wilderness	6-7-04	K.Edwards Kearstin
Powell/Lochsa employees	102	Basic LNT	6-9-04	K.Edwards
Quilt guild members	84	Wilderness awareness	6-8-04 7-6-04	K.Edwards
Wilderness Rangers (at Wilderness Rendezvous	50	Basic orienteering/compass	7-8-04	K.Edwards A. Byrd
Wilderness Rangers	45	Skills Trail and EE ideas	7-8-04	K.Edwards B. Goslin
Girls Scouts of Missoula	104	Skills Trail	7-15-04	K.Edwards
Boy Scout troop at Elk Summit	18	Map reading and LNT	8-2-04	A.Byrd
River/Wilderness Fest at Msla	50	Wilderness Awareness	9-18-04	A.Byrd B.Irey
TOTAL	**765**			

Clearwater National Forest Visitor Use- Self Reporting

2004 Summary of Self - Reporting Visitors at 10 posted Wilderness Portals (travel log information)

Trailhead # & Name	**# cards submitted**	**# users represented**	**% Day Users**	**% Overnight Users**	**% unknown length of stay**
#4 Elk Summit toward Diablo/Big Sand/Hidden	**64**	**206**	(31 cards) **49%**	(32 cards) **50%**	(1 card) **1%**
#7 Tom Beal	**13**	**25**	(6 cards) **46%**	(7 cards) **54%**	0
#49 Warm Springs ***NOTE:** the only box is at the stock parking lot	**35**	**80**	(23 cards) **66%**	(2 cards) **6%**	(10 cards) **28%**
#50 Colt Killed ***NOTE:** trail not cut out until late Sept	**4**	**11**	0	**100%**	0
#133 Split Cr.	**19**	**33**	(15 cards) **79%**	(4 cards) **21%**	0
#206 Eagle Mountain	**13**	**24**	(10 cards) **77%**	(2 cards) **15%**	(1 card) **8%**
#211 Wilderness Gateway	**230**	**585**	(79 cards) **34%**	(144 cards) **63%**	(7 cards) **3%**
#469 Mocus Point	**4**	**11**	(3 cards) **75%**	(1 card) **25%**	0
#486 Elk Summit toward Moose Cr.	**38**	**100**	(7 cards) **18%**	(28 cards) **74%**	(3 cards) **8%**
Fish Lake self sign-ins	**19**	**41**	(8 cards) **42%**	(9 cards) **47%**	(2 cards) **11%**
TOTALS	435	1111			

Because visitors are not required to fill out travel logs, it is important to remember the numbers above represent an incomplete picture, providing at best, an idea of minimum use at the trailheads. However, the summary does provide a starting point to identify possible trends.

The Cooperative Study of Nez Perce National Forest and University of Montana Wild Trout and Genetics Lab

The purpose of this project is determination of the level of hybridization, if any, of westslope cutthroat trout in streams below mountain lakes where non-native hatchery trout were historically stocked. Additionally, determination of the extent of genetic variation of westslope cutthroat trout and steelhead/redband trout populations in the Selway River basin, characterization of the scale of population structuring, and clarification of potential units of conservation are long-term objectives of the study.

Field sampling in 2004 was conducted in four tributaries of Meadow Creek and one tributary of Running Creek. Although sample locations were outside of designated wilderness, sample results are important both to wilderness and non-wilderness portions of the Selway basin. Samples were collected in upper Meadow, East Meadow, Schwar, Three Prong, and Lynx Creeks.

Laboratory analysis of samples was completed for these five streams and Spruce (Bear Creek drainage), Wahoo (Bear Creek drainage), Salamander, Wilkerson, and Pettibone Creeks. Of these, unhybridized populations of westslope cutthroat trout were identified in Three Prong, Upper Meadow, Schwar, East Meadow, Salamander, and Pettibone Creeks. Spruce and Wahoo Creek populations indicated high levels of hybridization in most individuals sampled. Wilkerson and Lynx Creeks indicated very low levels of hybridization in a few individuals, with many individuals not hybridized.

These results indicate that hybridization has occurred in cutthroat trout populations below Spruce Lake and Park Lakes, all of which have been stocked with non-native trout in the past. Hybridization of a few individuals in Lynx and Wilkerson Creeks may represent a natural, low-level hybridization between cutthroat trout and native steelhead/redband trout because there are no lakes in these drainages, and non-native trout have not been stocked in the streams. In Pettibone Creek, Indian Lake is one of a very few lakes in the Selway-Bitterroot identified as supporting a native cutthroat trout population. It has never been stocked with non-native trout. Papoose Lake, which is the only other lake in the Pettibone drainage, supports brook trout only, which do not hybridize with cutthroat trout. No lakes occur in the upper Meadow, Three Prong, East Meadow, and Schwar drainages.

In addition, preliminary results suggest that the subpopulations of westslope cutthroat trout in the Meadow Creek drainage and Lynx Creek are highly differentiated. In simple terms, genetic analysis suggests that the cutthroat trout in Schwar Creek, East Meadow Creek, Three Prong Creek and Upper Meadow Creek are very different from each other and collectively are quite different from those in Lynx Creek. Differentiation in these subpopulations appears to be greater than all differentiation identified in subpopulations in the North Fork Flathead subbasin in northwest Montana. These results are potentially significant. Further laboratory analysis of other samples is indicated.

A scientifically publishable report of these results may be available in 2005.

Details of Wilderness Fire

Bitterroot National Forest

Fire Name	District	Legal	Acres	Strategy
Tin Cup View	Darby	T3N R22W NWNW 35	.25	Control
Indian Creek	West Fork	T28N R14E NESW 12	380	WFU
Green Ridge	West Fork	T29N R13E NWNW 22	60	WFU
Little Creek	West Fork	T29N R14E SENW 20	.10	WFU
Scimitar	West Fork	T28N R15E 31	132	WFU
Mt. Aura	West Fork	T29N R13E SESE 3	.10	WFU
Green Ridge #2	West Fork	T29N R13E SESE19	.10	WFU
White Cap Lake	West Fork	T30N R16E NWNW 34	.10	WFU
Echo Creek	West Fork	T28N R13E SESW 1	.10	WFU
Deep One	West Fork	T27N R14E NWNW 12	.25	WFU

Nez Perce National Forest

FIRE NAME	IGNITION	TN RNG	SEC	Cause	STRAT	SIZE
Early	06/19 0945	32N 13E	19 NENW	Lightning	WFU	0.1
Otter	07/17 1920	31N 10E	12 SESW	Lightning	WFU	0.1
East Battle	07/17 1917	33N 14E	02 SWSW	Lightning	WFU	0.3
West Battle	07/17 1927	33N 14E	03 SENE	Lightning	WFU	0.3
North Battle	07/17 1921	33N 14E	01 SENW	Lightning	WFU	882.4
Three Links Point	07/17 1920	33N 11E	31 NWSE	Lightning	WFU	9.4
Three Links II	07/17 2039	32N 11E	04 NWNW	Lightning	WFU	153.5
Shearer Peak	08/02 2142	31N 12E	12 SENE	Lightning	WFU	0.2
Long Prairie	08/02 1950	30N 12E	29 SENW	Lightning	WFU	45.1
Goat	08/16 1300	30N 12E	10 NENE	Lightning	WFU	0.9
Upper Pinchot	08/17 1424	32N 11E	08 SWSW	Lightning	WFU	0.1
Louse Point	08/17 1525	33N 09E	25 NWNE	Lightning	WFU	0.1
Bear Wallow	08/17 1538	32N 11E	SWSW 02	Lightning	WFU	0.1
Hell Creek	08/17 1554	32N 13E	18 NWSE	Lightning	WFU	0.1
Jims	08/17 1605	31N 11E	07 NESW	Lightning	WFU	0.1
Rhoda	08/17 1508	34N 11E	16 SWNE	Lightning	WFU	0.1
Ranches	08/17 1606	33N 13E	30 SWNW	Lightning	WFU	0.1
Trout	08/17 1527	33N 13E	34 NWNE	Lightning	WFU	0.1
Tony Point	08/19 1813	32N 12E	14 NWSE	Lightning	WFU	0.1
Later	08/19 1800	32N 13E	19 SWNE	Lightning	WFU	0.1
Micah	08/21 1548	31N 10E	27 SWSE	Lightning	WFU	0.1

Berry	**08/21 1550**	**31N 10E**	**27 SESE**	**Lightning**	**WFU**	**0.1**
Elk	**08/19 1650**	**32N 14E**	**36 SWSE**	**Lightning**	**WFU**	**0.1**
Jam	**08/21 1555**	**31N 10E**	**26 SWNW**	**Lightning**	**WFU**	**0.1**
						1093.6