

Selway Bitterroot Wilderness 2005 State of the Wilderness Report

The Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness spans the border of north central Idaho and western Montana. Designated with the passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act, the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness is the third largest Wilderness area in the lower forty-eight states; encompassing 1.3 million acres across four National Forests and six Ranger Districts. The small portion of the SBW that lies on the Lolo National Forest is administered by the Bitterroot National Forest.

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RANGER'S PERSPECTIVE

FIRE in the Mountains

Wildfire! The very word initially strikes alarm in most people. It has taken years for people to understand and accept that the landscapes of the Selway Bitterroot were born and evolved with fire. Fire helped shape much of North America for thousands of years and continues to do so today – sometimes dramatically, sometimes subtly. Fire is a natural disturbance process and plays an essential role. So what is that essential role? Fire restores and renews nature by consuming dead material, releasing nutrients and stimulating new life; fire creates a mosaic of vegetation that allows for a diversity of habitats; many plants and wildlife species have come to depend on fire's periodic presence in the ecosystem to create the conditions they need to flourish. Without fire, many ecosystems become stagnant and lose their diversity of life and their ecological balance.

The story of fire is the story of change. We have learned that we can't "stop" fire from happening, we can't prevent change and we can't make change risk-free. We have changed our view of fire and we hope that you will too. Managers of the SBW review each natural ignition to determine if that fire will be allowed to continue burning in order to provide resource benefit or if the risk is too great. Whenever possible, we try to allow fire to play its natural role in the ecosystem. The challenge is to blend the needs of the American public with the needs of the land.

Fire is often inconvenient for Wilderness users. Trails may be closed for safety reasons when a fire is active. We try diligently to keep access open for as long as safely possible and open it once the fire has passed. But fire leaves in its wake hazards that Wilderness users need to understand. Often there are rocks or logs on the ground or standing trees that have become unstable after the fire passes and may roll or fall with little warning. Holes in the ground from burned out stumps may be created and present walking hazards. Trails are often blocked by fallen trees or snags. Managers are faced with the tradeoff of opening access quickly and allowing people to take personal responsibility for their safety or keeping access closed for longer periods of time to allow some of the hazards to be mitigated. It is a thorny position.

Other issues we continue to grapple with include how to keep trails passable especially the first few years after a fire. Snags and fire weakened trees continue to fall season long and we lack the people resources or the money to log them out every other week. We focus on the mainline trails with the heaviest historical use and pick up the others as money and time allow. We appreciate the many volunteers who assist us with these efforts.

Fire is an integral part of retaining the primeval character and influence of this land we call Wilderness. Wilderness, a land that appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature...an enduring resource...a national treasure.



Cindy Lane
District Ranger, Lochsa Ranger District

Chief's 10 Year Wilderness Challenge

The Ten Year Wilderness Challenge was developed in response to concern that only 18% of the Wildernesses administered by the Forest Service were managed to standard, according output elements identified in a 2002 study, conducted by the National Wilderness Advisory Group. In 2004, Dale Bosworth, Chief of the Forest Service challenged Wilderness managers to bring all 407 Forest Service Wilderness units to standard by 2014, the 50th Anniversary of the passage of the Wilderness Act.

The National Wilderness Advisory Group (WAG) helped to clearly define a minimum stewardship level by identifying 10 elements that gauge significant management achievements. These ten elements were distilled from over 200 components that comprise Wilderness management. Elements are broken down to allow for incremental progress as managers improve their stewardship efforts to preserve Wilderness resources for future generations. Scoring 60% across all elements is considered meeting a minimum stewardship level. However, once 60% is reached, the job isn't over. Every element has an implementation aspect that requires work to continue, striving to reach 100%.

The 10 elements of the challenge address the following topic areas:

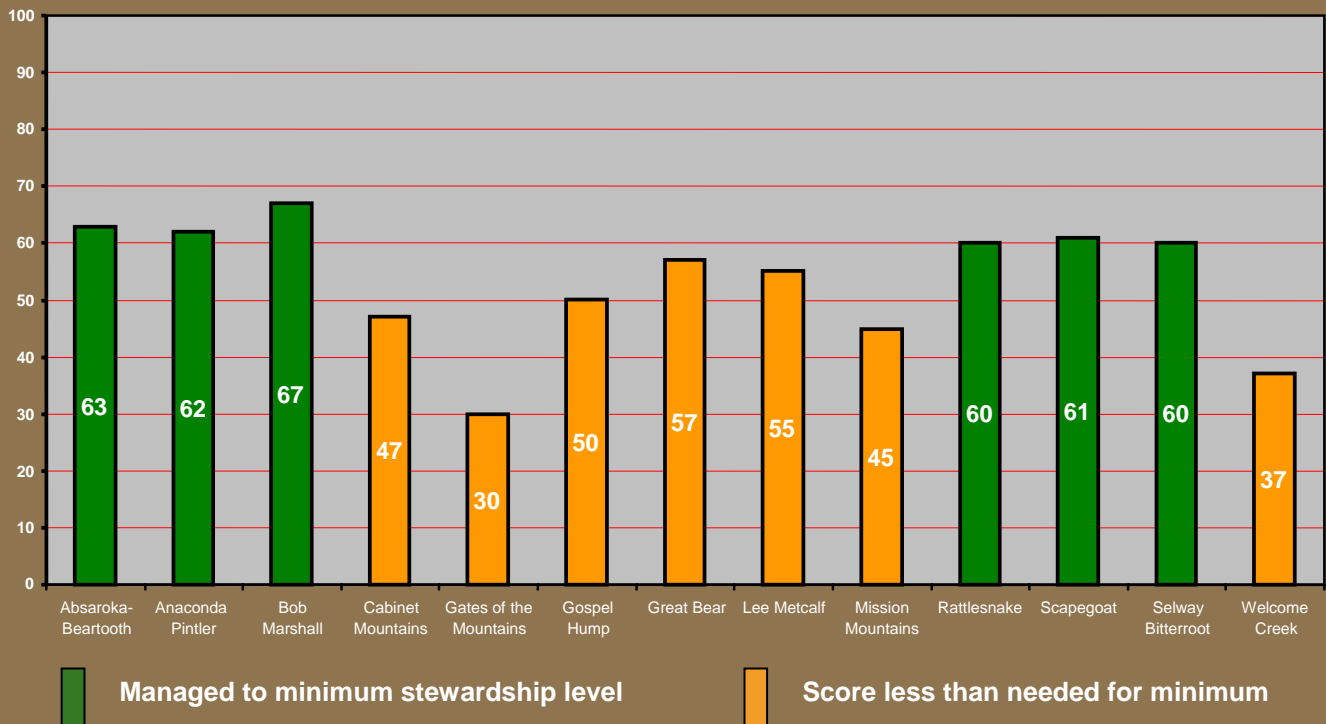
1. Fire plans
2. Noxious /Invasive weeds
3. Air quality
4. Education
5. Solitude
6. Recreation site inventories
7. Outfitter and guide operations
8. Monitoring Standards
9. Information needs
10. Workforce

Of the 13 Wilderness areas in Region 1, the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness is one of 6 that meet the 60%, minimum stewardship level. To further improve stewardship and move beyond a minimum rating, managers have identified the following needs as most important to address in the coming years:

- Creation and implementation of an invasive species management plan
- Restoration and management actions to address the documented degradation of social and physical standards that are out of standard as identified in the Forest Plan
- A need to maintain and increase the field workforce to prevent further resource damage (The current workforce is at 50% of the suggested baseline)

2005 Region 1 - 10 Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge

Wilderness Areas Rated by Stewardship Score



Region 1 statistics:
6 of 13 Wilderness areas managed to minimum level. Average total score = 53

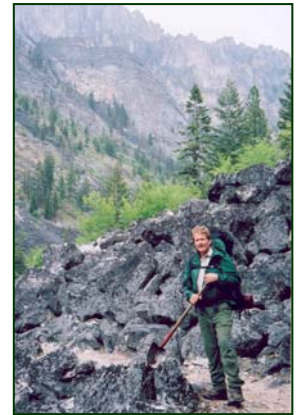
2005 SBW FIELD PRESENCE

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 all, nine Wilderness Rangers contributed to patrols in the SBW during 2005.

	Bitterroot NF	Clearwater NF	Nez Perce NF	Total
<i>SBW acres</i>	512,050	268,932	599,699	1,340,681
<i># Wilderness Rangers</i>	4	2	2 +1 river ranger	9
<i># Volunteer Hours</i>	600	2,696	4,033	7,329
<i>Miles SBW Trail</i>	458.8	325.3	706.6	1,490.7
<i>Miles SBW Trail Maintained</i>	157.9	244.4	391.6	793.97
<i># Campsites Monitored</i>	21	67	87	175

Bitterroot National Forest:

Four Wilderness Rangers patrol the Bitterroot portion of the SBW in Montana and Idaho; based out of the Darby, West Fork and Stevensville Ranger Districts. Two of these rangers routinely split their time with the Frank Church - River of No Return and the Anaconda Pintler Wildernesses. A third ranger spent most of the 2005 field season filling in as packer (after the Bitterroot's primary packer was seriously injured). All Wilderness rangers spend some time clearing trails and updating trail condition surveys in the SBW. One trail reconstruction crew and a Level 1 trail maintenance crew also worked a portion of the field season on Wilderness trails in the SBW.



Clearwater National Forest:

The Clearwater supported two Wilderness rangers who patrolled both the Lochsa and Powell Ranger Districts' portion of the SBW. These rangers were supervised by Suzanne Cable, newly hired in July of 2005 as the Natural Resource Specialist and Wilderness Manager. Suzanne replaced Ann Schwaller, who transferred to the Superior National Forest.

Field Rangers primarily used the two most heavily visited portals at Elk Summit and Wilderness Gateway to access the Wilderness, alternating entry points with all the remaining portals. In addition to the two Wilderness rangers, a three person, Forest Service trail crew and eight members of the Montana Conservation Corps maintained trails in the SBW during the 2005 field season.

Nez Perce National Forest:

One Wilderness ranger based out of the Moose Creek Ranger Station from April through November, with the exception of one month, which was devoted to working with volunteers on campsite and trail rehabilitation in the Little Copper Butte and Monument Creek areas. The second Wilderness Ranger worked two hitches out of the Lost Horse Guard Station, during hunting season, and assisted with packing projects for fire and for Forest specialists on other areas of the Forest. The lead Wilderness Ranger split his time between regular field duties and fulfilling duties required of the Resource Assistant position, which was vacant during a portion of 2005. A three (sometimes reduced to 2 or 1) person trail crew operated out of Moose Creek from June-August. The construction crew (3-5 persons) worked on the East Moose Creek Trail, #421 and in problem areas along the Selway River Trail on the Moose Creek District. In the fall of 2005, Anthony Botello, was hired as a Resource Assistant (Half time Resource Assistant at Moose Creek District and half time as Forest Wilderness/Recreation Specialist).

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Trails throughout the Wilderness are maintained with a combination of Forest Service crews, contract crews, and volunteers. Across the SBW, a total of 793.97 miles (53%) of Wilderness trails were maintained to at least Level I standards in 2005.

The total number of Wilderness trail miles may change slightly each year as mileage is updated from annual trail condition survey information. In the Wilderness, trail standards are linked to Opportunity Class designations. The following tables clarify terminology related to trails and trail maintenance. Classification of trail types was examined in 2005 and changes in classification may be forthcoming in 2006, however the definitions provided below were applicable during 2005. Detailed trail work accomplishments on each Forest follow the tables.

Trail Types	Definition
System Trails:	Trails identified on 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.

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.

2005 Wilderness Trail Maintenance by Forest and Opportunity Class													
Forest	OC 1			2			3			4			Total Miles/Forest
	I	II	III	I	II	III	I	II	III	I	II	III	
Bitterroot NF Miles Maintained	0	0	0	37.2	0	0	45	1	0	72.7	0	2	157.9
Total Miles	26.9			220			132.3			79.6			458.8
Clearwater NF Miles Maintained	0	0	0	20.4	0	0	203.3	4.2	4.5	5	7	0	244.4
Total Miles	9.1*			31.6			261.2			23.4			325.3
Nez Perce NF Miles Maintained	0	0	0	29.2	0	0	302.7	10	.07	49.4	.3	0	391.67
Total Miles	12.6			147			491			56			706.6
Maintained/OC of Total Miles	0 48.6			86.8 398.6			570.77 884.5			136.4 159			793.97 of 1,490.7 mi

NOTE: *For 2005, trails occurring along the outer SBW boundary of the Clearwater NF and adjacent to Opportunity Class 1 (OC1) compartments have been recorded as miles of trail in OC1. These miles may or may not fall officially within the OC1 compartment.

Trails maintained on each NF in 2005 include:

Bitterroot National Forest:

Spot Mountain. #3, Bass Creek #4, Selway River #4, Bear Creek #5, Big Creek #11, Divide North #16.1, Blodgett Creek #19, Whitecap #24, Scimitar Ridge #36, Beaver Jack #37, Bad Luck Creek #93, Kootenai Creek #53, Little Rock Creek #57, Tin Cup # 96, St. Mary's #116, Roaring Lion #124, Trapper Peak #133, Glen Lake #232, Boulder Lake #249, Kootenai Lakes #302, Mill Creek #364, Holloway Lake #393, Canyon Creek #525, Chaffin Creek. #528, Rock Creek #580, Boulder Creek #617, Watchtower #699 Capitol Investment Project and O&G demo funds contributed to: Glen Lake #232 & White Cap #24

Clearwater National Forest:

Big Sand Creek #1, Big Sand #4, Little Dead Elk #5, Hidden Peak #10, Wind Lakes #24, Pouliot #30, Cooperation #44, Friday Pass #45, Colt Killed Creek #50, Siah Lake #59, Army Mule #60, Maud-Dan Ridge #70, Big Flat Hidden Ridge #71, Beaver Meadows #77, Saturday Ridge #89, Storm Creek #99, Split Creek #133, Lone Knob #198, Long Lake #205, Eagle Mountain #206, Indian Meadows #208, Sponge Creek #209, Boulder Creek #211, Surprise Creek #219, Lochsa Peak #220, Greenside Butte #222, Cliff Creek #226, Gold Hill #247, Mocus Point #469, Frog Peak #906, Maple Lake #939, Dutch Ridge #2150, Rock Creek #2210

Nez Perce National Forest:

Selway River #4, Fish Lake Connection #263, East Moose #421, Lost Horse #430, Marten Creek #436, Mink Peak #438, Double Ridge #442, Shissler #450, Cox Creek #463, Cub Creek #512, Fry Pan #515, Bear Creek #516, Bilk Mountain #517, Eagle Rock #520, Paradise #522, Ditch Creek #523, Archer Mountain #529, Running Creek #533, Spruce Creek #559, Moose Ridge #562, Copper Butte #602, Disgrace Butte #609, North Moose-Isaac Lake #618, Monument Creek #624, Upper Buck Lake #628, Indian Lake #631, Big Rock #693,

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.

In an effort to meet the educational element of the Chief’s (Chief of the Forest Service) 10 Year Wilderness Challenge, field rangers and managers developed the first draft of an official Education Plan for the SBW. The Plan facilitates a coordinated information and education effort by drawing together existing programs and prioritizing education needs, on an annual basis.

Wilderness Rangers across the SBW conducted 34 formal programs during 2005, reaching over 1,500 individuals. However, numerous others were reached with less formal presentations as Wilderness rangers contacted individuals at trailheads, internal portals and while in the backcountry.

2005 SBW Education totals	Bitterroot NF	Clearwater NF	Nez Perce NF	Totals
<i># Formal programs presented</i>	16	18	10	34
<i># Audience members reached</i>	447	928	135	1,510

Bitterroot National Forest:

- **School Groups:** Rangers presented the Wilderness Skills Trail to 350, 5th and 6th grade Bitterroot Valley students at the Charlie Waters Campground Nature Trail and adapted the program for 60, 7th -12th graders during the Lee Metcalf Outdoor Home School Days Program. Activities included information about Wilderness history, philosophy, ethics, a variety of Leave No Trace practices and natural history.
- **Community members:** During the Willoughby 40 Land Stewardship RAC Project, 27 students and 10 adults spent a day learning basic trail construction techniques. The Stevensville Wilderness Ranger helped coordinate the program.
- **Hunters:** An annual event, rangers contacted incoming hunters at Nez Perce Pass the week before hunting season opened; providing information on Leave No Trace, Fair Chase, Noxious Weeds, the Magruder Corridor, trails, and fires.

Clearwater National Forest:

- **Boy and Girl Scouts:** Rangers presented 4 programs at different scouting events, including sessions for individual troops and regional gatherings to reach 333 young scouts. Program topics included information on Wilderness Awareness, map and compass skills, Leave No Trace camping skills and winter preparedness.
- **Summer Youth Natural Resource Camps:** Rangers presented 3 programs at summer camp sessions, reaching 125 youth. Programs focused on Wilderness Awareness at the Montana Natural Resources Youth Camp for High School students and Leave No Trace skills for the Fire Squirt participants and the 7th graders at Forestry Camp in Idaho.
- **School Groups:** Rangers conducted a winter preparedness and avalanche program for 6th grade students from Florence, Montana. They contributed a Wilderness awareness session during the

Earth Day Event in Orofino for elementary and middle school children in the surrounding school districts. And they presented a Wilderness Awareness and Career day program for visiting high school students from the Woodman School. In all, reaching 190 students.

- **Community & Campground Programs:** Rangers participated in the Primitive Skills exhibition at the Lochsa Historic Station, and offered two programs on Wilderness and the Wilderness Ranger to visitors to the Powell Campground as well as to quilt guilds surrounding the Wilderness. In all, 95 individuals participated in these 3 programs.
- **Employee & Partner Training:** Rangers presented 5 programs targeted to Forest Service Employees and partners, reaching 185 individuals. Programs addressed Wilderness awareness and ethics, Leave No Trace practices and defensive horsemanship information.

Nez Perce National Forest:

- **Students and Teachers:** Project Reach a Teacher-Touch the World began on the Lochsa District of the Clearwater NF and continues for the 12th consecutive year; now 8 years on the Moose Creek District of the Nez Perce NF. A group of five educators from Iowa volunteered to stabilize trail and campsites in the Copper Butte area in 2005. In addition to the field work, teachers also developed a Wilderness curriculum to use in their respective classrooms for the following school year, in Iowa. This project will expand to reach approximately 150 to 200 Iowa students in ongoing classroom studies and projects.
- **Iowa Students:** Rangers also worked with a different contingent of 14 students and 4 adult leaders from Iowa. Part of the exchange involved sharing information on Wilderness history, land ethic principles and ways that Wilderness education can be disseminated to other students and adults. Information was disseminated while the group assisted with clearing on the Monument Cr. trail.
- **Wilderness Education Week:** Wilderness and fire personnel also conducted a 5-day Wilderness Week education session, focusing on Wilderness awareness and appropriate fire use, for 60 students and 10 adults.
- **Hunters:** As part of a volunteer agreement with the Nez Perce NF, representatives from the Back Country Horsemen contacted hunters at the Elk Summit and Lost Horse portals, during the first week of hunting season, to provide information on low impact camping with stock.

VOLUNTEERS

In addition to contributing energy and specialized skills to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Program, volunteers dedicated 7,226 hours to the Wilderness resource during 2005. In addition to providing visitor information at many of our Wilderness portals, volunteers helped pack in project supplies, assisted with trail maintenance, weed eradication, cabin restoration and campsite restoration projects. Volunteers also assisted with monitoring and data collection, which helps managers assess use patterns, prioritize work needs and assess resource health. All three Forests would like to express their gratitude for the generous gifts of time, talent and equipment that volunteers offer each year.

2005 SBW Volunteer Summary				
	Bitterroot NF	Clearwater NF	Nez Perce NF	Totals
# Volunteers	8	28	37	73
# Volunteer Hours	600	2,593	4,033	7,226

Bitterroot National Forest:

- **Back Country Horsemen:** Members volunteered 80 hours on the Bitterroot NF, helping with numerous projects. Two individuals maintained the Mill Creek trail on three occasions and four others did Level 1 maintenance on the Rock Creek trail in conjunction with National Trails Day.
- **Paradise Station Guards:** Two individuals staffed the Paradise Guard Station for the summer; helping with campground clean-up, building fence, pulling and inventorying weeds, taking care of the Magruder facility, talking to Wilderness visitors and checking Selway River floaters' permits.

Clearwater National Forest:

- **American Hiking Society:** Seven individuals from across the United States, convened at the Powell Ranger Station in late June to assist with a trail maintenance project on Trails #49 and #44. The crew worked for 7 days and contributed 280 hours; installing 55 waterbars, completing 975ft of retread, replacing worn bridge planking, sawing out down trees, pulling knapweed and patrolling the hot springs area for garbage.
- **National Smokejumpers Association & Back Country Horsemen (North Central Chapter):** In a combined effort, these two groups contributed 737 hours of time on a trail maintenance project in the Little Dead Elk and Hidden Loop trail systems. BCH members provided packing support for the smokejumpers, who focused their attention on removing over 130 downed trees on Trail #5 before circling the loop and removing additional downfall on Trails #9 and #10.
- **Elk Summit Station Guards:** For the third consecutive year, one of our favorite Wilderness stewards returned to Elk Summit and contributed 392 hours to the Wilderness program. In addition to staffing the station for 43 days, enthusiastically greeting visitors, maintaining the campground and local trails and offering area information to passers-by, Alecia created a user-friendly reference book and initiated a children's activity booklet for the Elk Summit area. She also assisted in the office, updating campsite file information.



- **Fish Lake Airstrip Station Guards:** Six individuals staffed the airstrip in 2005, contributing 632 hours of service. Three of these volunteers were returnees. With their help, the airstrip was staffed for 49 days during the July-Oct operating season. In addition to greeting visitors, volunteers assisted with cabin, trail and airstrip maintenance. Two of the volunteers came in specifically to assist with mowing the airstrip with a team of draft horses.
- **Back Country Wilderness Stewards:** Two individuals worked independently as backcountry Wilderness stewards, conducting campsite inventories, gathering data on wood depletion and making visitor contacts in the Stanley Hot Springs, Seven Lakes and Craggs areas. These volunteers contributed a total of 69 days and 552 hours to the Wilderness Program.

Nez Perce National Forest:

- **Back Country Horsemen:** The North Central Idaho Chapter continues to support the Wilderness program with a variety of expertise including 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.
- **Iowa Students:** Fourteen Iowa high school students and four adult leaders from Iowa hiked from Elk Summit to Elbow Bend on Moose Creek. They opened the Monument Creek trail. Emphasis was Wilderness history, land ethic principles, and ways that Wilderness education can be disseminated to other students and adults.
- **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 576 volunteer hours in 2005.
- **Moose Creek Ranger Station Hosts:** In 2005, sixteen people assisted with host duties at the station from mid May through October 1. One to three persons were available for at least 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

Historically, lightning-caused fires helped create the vegetative diversity and the resulting mixture of wildlife habitat in the SBW. Today, many naturally ignited fires are still allowed to burn in the SBW, as “Wildland Fire Use” fires; a designation that allows managers to monitor a fire’s progress while the fire plays its natural role in shaping the Wilderness ecosystem. Because the SBW encompasses a large expanse of undeveloped land, fires within the Wilderness seldom threaten private property or social values and are typically extinguished as fall rains and snowstorms begin.

During 2005, 61 fires burned a total of 47, 335.8 acres in the SBW. Of those 61 fires, all but one were caused by lightening. The largest single fire reached 25, 549 acres on the Bitterroot NF. The following table offers comparisons by Forest. Details about specific fires are located in Appendix C.

2005 SBW Fire Information				
	Bitterroot NF	Clearwater NF	Nez Perce NF	Totals
<i># SB Wilderness Fire Events</i>	41	10	13	64
<i># lightening caused fires</i>	41	10	13	64
<i># Acres burned</i>	32,438	3,234.2	11,663.6	47,335.8
<i>Range in size of fires (acres)</i>	.1 to 25,549	.1 to 2,398	.1 to 8,056	

Bitterroot National Forest:

The Bitterroot NF had a busy fire season during 2005, with 41 lightening caused fires. The Darby District had four lightning fires start west of Lake Como, which quickly burned together and were combined into the “Rockin Complex”, managed under a containment strategy. The containment goal was issued to prevent the fire from spreading beyond the Wilderness boundary to Lake Como National Recreation Area (½ mile away) and the community of Darby. On the West Fork and Darby Districts, thirty-seven lightning starts were managed as the “Salmon-Selway Complex” with a Wildland Fire Use strategy. Both fire complexes were active into October. Access was restricted on the “Rockin Complex” during archery season, but otherwise hunters had full access.

Clearwater National Forest:

During 2005, there were 10 recorded lightning strikes on the Clearwater’s portion of the SBW. Of these 10 starts, 9 were managed under Wildland Fire Use and one (Cedar Fire) was suppressed. The District Ranger authorized mechanical use for water pumps, sling loads and limited chainsaw use for crews working on the Cedar Fire.

Nez Perce National Forest:

All 13 fires on the Nez Perce’s portion of the SBW were started by lightning and allowed to burn as Wildland Fire Use fires. Six of these grew no larger than .1 acres, the remaining seven fires ranged from 99 acres to 8,056 acres in size.

WILDERNESS DAMS

There are 16 privately operated dams in the Selway-Bitterroot, all located on the Bitterroot National Forest. Historically, these dams were authorized under special use permits. Some dams qualify for easements, but that 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 2005 involved routine maintenance on eight dams, transporting and installing a new log boom at the Tin Cup Dam, completing reconstruction efforts on the Canyon Dam, repair work at Holloway Dam and reconstruction of Mill Dam to address safety issues.

For the third consecutive year, Montana Conservation Corp members spent a portion of their field season completing work on the Canyon Dam, using primarily non-mechanized tools, a rotary drill and a boulder buster. The commitment to traditional skills has helped this three-year project reach completion with minimal motorized/mechanized intrusions into the SBW.

More detailed information on the types and amounts of equipment used on these dams is available in the following section.

MECHANICAL USE AUTHORIZATIONS

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized equipment or mechanical 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 Wilderness 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 first identified. Then methods and equipment to 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.

The Following table describes the motorized equipment and mechanical transport that was authorized within the SBW, on each Forest, during 2005.

2005 SBW Motorized Equipment and Mechanical Transport Authorizations

Forest	Event Name	Date of Activity	Type of Use	Minimum Decision Tool Guide Used?
Bitterroot NF	Rockin Complex Fire	8/03/2005 to 9/24/2005	Air tanker, helicopter landings, water drops, slingloads, rappeller drops, chainsaws, pumps, incendiary ball drops	N
	Selway-Salmon Complex Fire	8/16/2005 to 9/16/2005	Helicopter landings, slingloads	N
	Bass Dam Maintenance	9/08/2005	Chainsaw	N
	Canyon Dam reconstruction & repair	6/05/2005 to 10/31/2005	Helicopter landing, rotary drill	Y
	Mill Dam Reconstruction & maintenance	4/16/2005 to 10/18/2005	Fixed wing overflight, helicopter landings, welder, grout pump, concrete equipment, motorized winch, ATV, mini-excavator, chainsaw	Y
	Tin Cup Dam log boom	4/25/2005	Helicopter landing	Y
	Lost Horse Medivac	8/25/2005	Helicopter landing	N
Clearwater NF	Elk Complex Fire	8/07/2005 to 9/30/2005	Helicopter landings, pumps	N
	Cedar Fire	8/15/2005 to 8/24/2005	Helicopter landings, chainsaws, pumps	N
	Florence Medivac	8/15/2005	Helicopter landing	N
	Horse Camp Wheelbarrows	6/01/2005 for one year	Wheelbarrows	Y
	Fish Lake Wheelbarrows	1/15/2005 for one year	Wheelbarrows	Y
Nez Perce NF	Elk Fire Complex	08/07/05	Emergency-fire: 2 portable pumps, 1 helicopter sling load	N

INTEGRATED WEED MANAGEMENT PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION

Only a handful of invasive weed species are entrenched in the SBW at this time. However, the Wilderness remains vulnerable to a host of new invaders 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 2005, the SBW Forests advanced to the first phase of an invasive plants management EIS in the Wilderness by recruiting members of the interdisciplinary team, developing a timeline for the project, identifying and planning costs for the project for 2006 and 2007, and holding “sensing” meetings in Grangeville, ID and Hamilton, MT as well as a number of sidebar sensing discussions with Wilderness stakeholders between May and December, 2005. The sensing contacts precede formal scoping and will help to shape the initial Proposed Action for the project.

Sensing comments received to date include a variety of concerns and preferences, some of which are in opposition to each other. A sample of the diversity of thoughts include: focusing on the conservation of weed-free sites; re-establishing native plant communities currently dominated by invasives; taking a hands-off approach that allows the Wilderness to deal with invasive plants through its’ natural processes without human interference; using all biocontrol and herbicide options; avoiding all biocontrol organisms or herbicides; using some biocontrol and herbicide tools; emphasizing prevention through education and enforcement, or through capping recreational use levels of all types; and numerous other ideas. The sensing process will continue into the spring of 2006 and segue into the formal scoping phase once a proposed action is developed.

Mapping and inventory work continued into 2005, further expanding knowledge of invasive weed species’ distribution and densities. The weed specialists for the Forests feel that there is enough baseline mapping data to proceed with an initial proposal for the invasives EIS.

Advancing efforts to combat invasive species is also driven by the 10 Year Wilderness Challenge. The Challenge addresses the need to prevent the spread of invasive species and uses this element as a means to measure successful stewardship of the Wilderness Resource.

All three managing Forests have education efforts in place that address the importance of curtailing the spread of invasives on the forests and in the SBW. 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 both private and outfitter camps throughout the field season.

Bitterroot National Forest:

The noxious weed management program on the forest includes monitoring, education and treatment of noxious and invasive weeds in the SBW. 2005 saw the third year of implementation of herbicide treatment along Westside canyon trails not covered by previous NEPA.

Monitoring during the last 11 years has identified widespread noxious weeds that include spotted 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).). In 2005, additional survey work was carried out along the Selway River corridor to determine the extent of ox-eye daisy, sulfur cinquefoil and goatweed. Sulfur cinquefoil infests more acreage and trail miles than previously thought. It is listed as a noxious weed in Montana but not in Idaho. Cheatgrass, now common in large portions of the Wilderness, is one of the most difficult invasive plants to manage. While it is not a formally listed noxious weed in either Idaho or Montana, it has displayed an aggressive ability to colonize and firmly establish itself in grassland and open canopy timber habitat types. This annual grass specie greatly concerns the invasive plant specialists working in the SBW because of the way that it affects ecosystem processes including fire behavior. However, control solutions are proving difficult to devise and apply.

During 2005 field season, twenty-two trails with portions 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 have received spray treatment for the past five years or more are showing shrinking infestations and requiring less herbicide. Several trails were put on a maintenance treatment schedule in 2005 that will result in light herbicide applications every other year instead of annual applications. 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:

The most common weeds found on the Clearwater's portion of the SBW were Spotted Knapweed, St. Johnswort and Sulfur Cinquefoil. A variety of thistles, oxeye daisy and wooly mullan were also identified.

The Clearwater began an environmental assessment (EA) on invasive plants in the Lochsa Basin during 2005. Once citizen approval of this EA is garnered, it will help to reduce the spread of invasives from the river corridor, where they are most common, into the SBW. Until then, annual weed inventories and mapping assist managers in prioritizing mechanical (hand pulling) removal efforts until the Wilderness-wide invasive plant management EIS is ready for implementation.

Nez Perce National Forest:

The 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.

Herbicide Treatment: As in 2004, the Indian hill, Fog Mountain and Race Creek trailheads and stock facilities were sprayed in 2005. The Back Country 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. These agents were distributed again in 2005 along the Selway River Trail in areas of high knapweed concentration.

Weed free forage: Each fall volunteers and Wilderness Rangers staff check points at key trailheads that receive heavy stock use. In 2005, volunteers at Elk Summit and Lost Horse portals checked for compliance of tags that meet weed seed free standards in Idaho and Montana.

Cooperative Partnerships: 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 has a long history in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness. 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. In some locations, facilities that minimize stock impacts and provide convenience and safety at trailheads for stock users have not been available. Recognizing this, all three Forests have made a concerted effort to improve facilities, such as feed bunks, unloading ramps, and hitch rails. The 2002 State of Wilderness Report summarized stock facility improvements conducted between 1992-2002. Forests continue to maintain and improve stock facilities and accommodations at Wilderness trailheads. The following information summarizes improvements made during 2005.

Clearwater National Forest:

- **Eagle Mountain Trailhead:** Three new hitch rails were installed. The old stock loading ramp was removed and the entire pullout was hardened to better accommodate trailer parking.
- **Colt Killed Pack Bridge:** Decking, running planks and curb lumber were replaced on the Colt Killed Bridge so it met engineering standards. Eventually the entire bridge will be replaced.
- **Mocus Pack Bridge:** A Forest Service crew conducted major maintenance on this bridge, replacing decking, running planks, side rails and curbs, as well as adjusting the support cable's tension.

Nez Perce National Forest:

- **Race Creek Trailhead:** Back County Horsemen assembled and installed two concrete feed bunks, constructed by the Trapper Cr. Job Corps at this Wilderness portal.

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 administrative use of these sites. Forest Service facilities within the Wilderness are not available for public rental and are only used for administrative purposes.

Bitterroot National Forest:

- **Coopers Flat Cabin:** (W) was used for 19 days including field patrols and fire related use.
- **Paradise Guard Station:** (A) staffed from May 6 - August 6 with two volunteers who were there 7 days a week.

Clearwater National Forest:

- **Horse Camp:** (W) Used approximately 52 days between May and November by trail crews and Wilderness Rangers.
- **Fish Lake Guard Station:** (W) Staffed approximately 49 days for airstrip monitoring and backcountry patrol.
- **Diablo Lookout:** (W) Intact structure; staffed 9 days during the Cedar fire in Aug.
- **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; upon completion of major structural repairs in early July to meet OSHA safety standards. Following repairs, the lookout was staffed approximately 72 days from mid July through Sept
- **Beaver Ridge Lookout:** (A) Intact structure; staffed approximately 38 days. One week in early July and from mid August to late Sept
- **Lochsa Historic Station:** (A) Intact historic structure; staffed by volunteers May to Oct.
- **Elk Summit Guard Station:** (A) Staffed by volunteers for 43 days between July and Oct. Used an additional 33 days by Wilderness staff, trail crews and fire crews.
- **Colt Creek Cabin:** (A) Deteriorating cabin; not staffed.

Nez Perce National Forest:

- **Shearer Guard Station:** (W) Not staffed. Fire crews were stationed here from 8/7 – 9/30 for operations to protect bridges and nearby structures on private in-holdings
- **Moose Creek Ranger Station:** (W) Staffed from April 10 through Nov. 22. Volunteers served as hosts from June through October.
- **Shissler Lookout:** (W) Staffed from July through Sept. Materials for radio communications buildings (repeaters) were packed to the site and installed.
- **Gardiner Lookout:** (W) Staffed from July through Sept.
- **Lost Horse Guard Station:** (A) Staffed for 2 weeks during hunting season by a Wilderness ranger and 2 weeks by a volunteer, who provided information and checked for compliance with weed seed free hay requirements.
- **Indian Hill Lookout:** (A) Staffed from July through Sept.
- **Coolwater Lookout:** (A) Staffed from July through Sept.
- **Selway Falls Guard Station:** (A) Used intermittently from April through November as a base station to stage packing for Moose Creek Ranger Station and trail crew supplies.

RESEARCH



The Wilderness Act specifically refers to the value of Wilderness for scientific study. Because Wilderness areas encompass an array of habitat types and provide homes for a wide range of organisms, in relatively undisturbed settings, 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 standards and avoid impacting users' pursuits of solitude in opportunity classes 1, 2 and 3. The following research is currently underway in the SBW:

Bitterroot National Forest:

- **USGS Spotted Frog Research in Sweeney Creek drainage:** Population dynamics of endemic Spotted Frog population. 2000-2004. **Contact: Bryce Maxell (406) 777-0065.**
- **RMRS Wolverine Study in Blodgett, Mill and Fred Burr, Bear and Big Creek drainages.** Transects with scent lures and hair sampling. **Contact: Jeff Copeland (406) 542-4165.**
- **Fisheries effectiveness monitoring, for INFISH and PACFISH:** Conducted by the Forest Service-wide Fish and Aquatic Ecology Unit. Forest Inventory Analysis Plots are still being monitored as well. **Contact: Pete Zimmerman (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 2004. Datum were collected from Dan, Fern, Pedro and Wind Lakes Creeks 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) High Mountain Lake Survey:** IDFG annually surveys high mountain lakes on the Forest for location, size, depth, and fish/amphibian data. IDFG has a Fisheries Management Plan for 2001 through 2006. **Contact: Fisheries Bureau Headquarters in Boise, ID at (208) 334-3791.**
- **Lolo Pass Redevelopment Project:** This project is composed of multiple studies to examine the impact of Hwy 12 on Fishers and Wolverine and Lynx movements: USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station: 2000-2005. The Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness is part of this study area. **Contact: Mike K. Schwartz (406) 542-4161**
- **National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM):** National survey conducted by the US Forest Service to better understand visitation to Forest Service amenities as well as visitor satisfaction and preferences. Monitoring on the Clearwater National Forest began in the fall of 2005 and will

continue through 2006. The overall project is nation-wide and will continue to rotate through different Forests, reaching 20% of all forest each year. The following website provides information about the program. <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum/>
Contact: Jen Hensiek (208) 926-4274 at the Lochsa Ranger Station for local information

Nez Perce National Forest:

- **Permanent Vegetation Plots:** The Intermountain Research Station, a research branch of the Forest Service installed permanent vegetative plots on the Moose Creek Ranger District to serve as a baseline for tracking changes in vegetation over time. Crews continued to monitor in 2006.
Contact: Connie Saylor (208) 926-4258
- **Nez Perce National Forest and the University of Montana, Wild Trout and Salmon Genetics Laboratory cooperative Fisheries Study. 2004-2005** A formal venture between both entities was signed in 2004, with an updated supplement signed and implemented in 2005. Objectives were to determine the extent of genetic variation in West slope Cutthroat Trout in the Selway River Basin, characterization of the scale of population structuring, and clarification of potential units of conservation. 2005 work focused on laboratory analysis of samples.
Contact: Katherine Thompson, Fisheries Biologist (208) 983-1950



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.

2005 SBW Law Enforcement details				
	Bitterroot NF	Clearwater NF	Nez Perce NF	TOTAL
<i># Law Enforcement Personnel</i>	5	3	1	9
<i># incident reports written</i>	30	39	3	72
<i># Warning/Citation notices written</i>	0	0	1 pending	1

Because the SBW is so vast, it is rare for LEO's or FPO's to actually link individuals to their adverse actions, which would result in either an opportunity for education or a citation. More often, rangers only find the resource damage resulting from inappropriate use of the Wilderness resource. In these cases, an incident notice is written to record the violation. The following table identifies the violations that rangers did discover during their field work during 2005. The most frequent violations noted involved litter, damage from stock and sanitation issues.

2005 SBW Violations	Bitterroot NF		Clearwater NF		Nez Perce NF		TOTAL
	Incident	Citation	Incident	Citation	Incident	Citation	
Minor Litter (not recorded on official incident forms)	261		Not counted		Not counted		261
Excessive Litter (beyond micro-trash)	11		5		1		17
Stock damage to trees	15		12		1		28
Sanitation (human waste)	2		14				16
Vandalism/ theft of signs/ registration boxes	5						5
Snowmobile Trespass			4				4
Uncontrolled Dogs	3						3
Camping over 14 day limit	2		1				3
Damage to Natural Feature			2				2
Unauthorized O/G camp location					1	1	2
Bicycle Trespass	1						1
Unattended campfire	1						1
Illegal Trail			1				1
TOTAL	30		39		3	1	73

OUTFITTERS

Thirty-seven outfitters operated under special use permits in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness during 2005. 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 "Recreation Fee" 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 alike.

2005 SBW Outfitter Use			
Forest	# Outfitters	# Camps used in SBW	# Camps immediately adjacent to SBW
Bitterroot NF	18	30	5
Clearwater NF	5	8	6
Nez Perce NF	14	27	8
Total	37	65	19

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 represents only a portion of existing use. Each year, Wilderness rangers, with occasional help from volunteers, monitor both social and site indicators during their time in the field. Standards exist within each opportunity class for both site and social indicators in order to protect the Wilderness resource and trigger management action, should unacceptable conditions develop. Areas that exceed standards for site or social indicators are considered “Problem Areas” and are prioritized for management actions in order to eventually bring the area back into standard.

Standards for Social and Site Indicators for each opportunity Class in the SBW (GMD 1992)					
	Indicators	Opportunity Class 1	Opportunity Class 2	Opportunity Class 3	Opportunity Class 4
Social:	Max # of other parties encountered each day	80% chance of meeting no more than 0	80% chance of meeting no more than 0	80% chance of meeting no more than 2	80% chance of meeting no more than 5
	Max # of other parties camped within sight or sound	80% chance of seeing or hearing no more than 0	80% chance of seeing or hearing no more than 0	80% chance of seeing or hearing no more than 1	80% chance of seeing or hearing no more than 2
Site:	Max. # sites at a given impact rating per sq. mile	0-1 Light 0 Moderate 0 Heavy or Extreme	1 Light 1 Moderate 0 Heavy or Extreme	2 Light 1 Moderate 0 Heavy or Extreme	1 Light 2 Moderate 1 Heavy
	Max. # of sites per sq. mile	1	2	3	4

Social Indicators

Social indicators include the number of other parties encountered each day and the number of other parties camped within site or sound of any campsite. Managers use voluntary Visitor Travel Logs at trailheads and recorded field encounters by Wilderness Rangers to provide information on social indicators. Because the Visitor Travel Logs are voluntary and encounters data does not represent a statistically valid sample, these methods of data collection do not allow managers to reliably extrapolate use information for a complete picture of use levels in the SBW. However, these methods do provide information on use trends and set a baseline for a minimum level of use by different types of visitors at certain portals.

2005 SBW Wilderness Ranger Encounters Data			
	Bitterroot NF	Clearwater NF	Nez Perce NF
# Groups contacted	94	49	*See notes below
# Visitors Contacted	244	134	Approx. 800

Bitterroot National Forest:

During 2005, four Bitterroot NF Wilderness Rangers were in the SBW nearly 100 days and encountered a total of 94 groups, representing 244 individuals. This is a fraction of the actual use reflected by visitors registering at trailheads (as displayed in the following section on travel log use). For the past three years, registration boxes have been in place at the more heavily used Darby and Stevensville District trailheads.

Clearwater National Forest:

Encounters data from the Clearwater includes only those individual contacted while rangers were in the SBW. During 2005, rangers were on the trail for 101 days and encountered a total of 49 groups, representing 134 individuals. Field days were slightly lower in 2005 than 2004, due to an ankle injury incurred by one of the rangers that inhibited extensive travel for a full month. Encounter numbers were highest on the Boulder Creek Trail and the trail to Big Sand Lake.

Nez Perce National Forest:

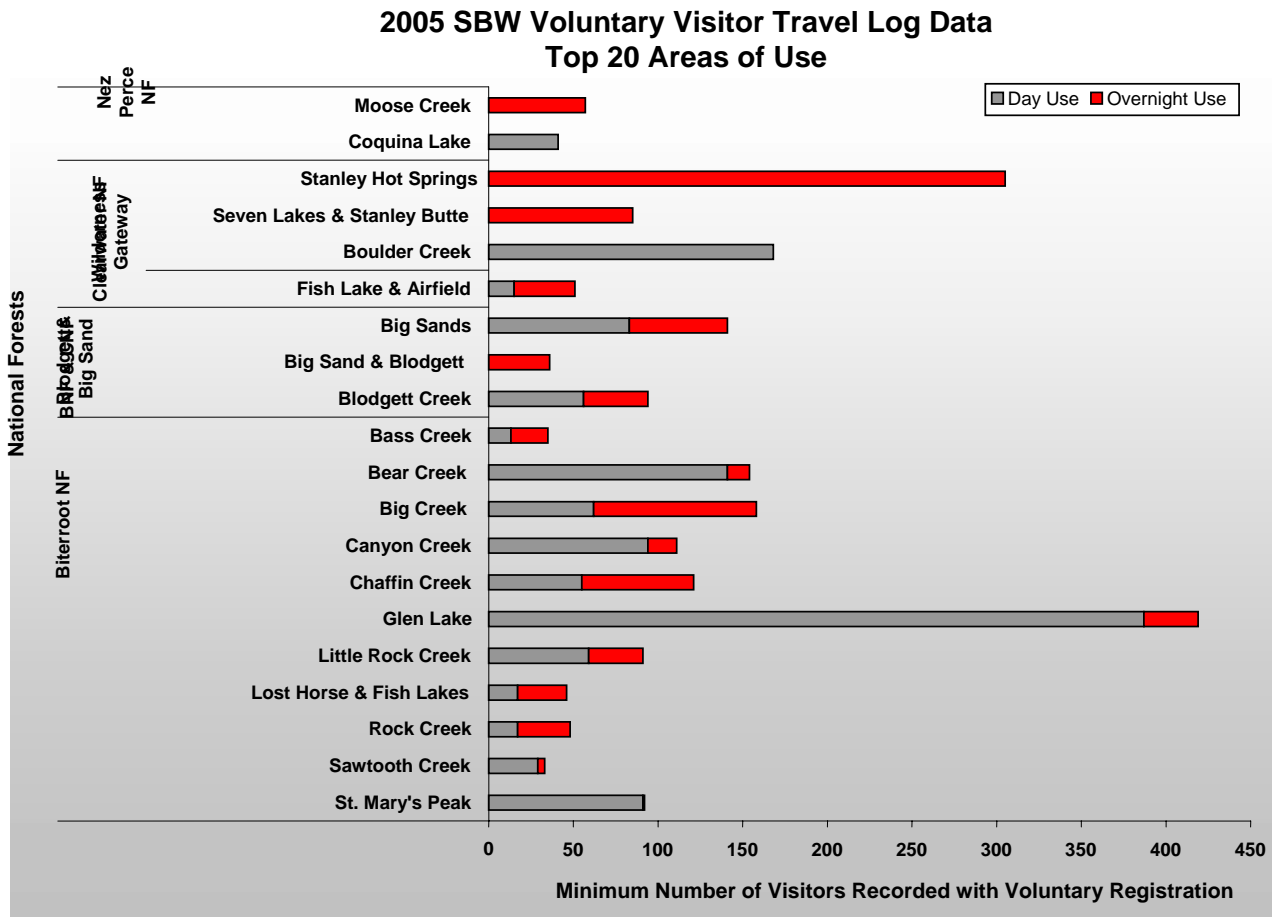
Trail encounters are difficult to measure on trails emanating from the Moose Creek guard station and nearby campsites. Numerous user groups congregate in this location making repeat encounters with boaters, outfitted hunters and pilots unavoidable. Because of its rather unique situation with an airstrip and popular boat launch as well as the historical draw for land-based visitors, Moose Creek has yet to create a monitoring system that accurately reflects use at this portal. The majority of the visitors arriving at Moose Creek come by airplane (including guided hunters). Boaters, floating the Selway River, comprise the next largest user-group, followed by backpackers then stock users.

2005 SBW Visitor Travel Log Data

Nearly 1,000 groups filled out voluntary Visitor Travel Log cards at trailheads on the Bitterroot and Clearwater portions of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, giving critical use information on 2,750 visitors. Data was collected at most trailheads adjacent to Highway 93 in the Bitterroot Valley and Highway 12 along the Lochsa and Middle Fork of the Clearwater. (Collection boxes have not been reinstalled at most Nez Perce Portals to the SBW, so information is skewed toward visitation on the Bitterroot and Clearwater.) Key results showed:

- Two thirds of use was day use (1,825 visitors) and the other one third was overnight use (925 visitors with an average stay of three nights).
- The most popular destinations were Glen Lake on the Stevensville RD (primarily day use) and Stanley Hot Springs on the Lochsa RD (primarily overnight use).
- Wilderness Gateway was the most popular trailhead, with nearly 25% of groups registering there (60% overnight use).
- Stevensville RD received the most overall use, with nearly 40% of groups registering at district trailheads (74% day use).
- About 7% of visitors used stock and a little over half of these visitors were overnight camping (90% of these overnight stock groups started out from Wilderness Gateway or Big Sands Trailheads on the Clearwater).

The following chart shows the top 20 areas of use, **based on voluntary registration information**, and also shows relative day and overnight use in these areas.



***Notes:**

- Visitor Travel Log data does not accurately represent visitation to the airstrip at Moose Creek. This is evident by the discrepancy between landings recorded by airstrip hosts compared to the number of visitors accounted for on the above table.
- Information at Wilderness Gateway was separated out to show type of use and destinations (if totaled, it would be off the chart).
- Use from Big Sands over to Blodgett was grouped with other use in those two drainages to show the unique opportunity this popular route offers visitors. This chart does NOT show the nearly 400 visitors that day hiked in Blodgett Canyon without reaching the Wilderness boundary, nine miles up from the trailhead.
- Similarly, the chart does not show the large day use that occurs around Lake Como leading into the Rock Creek drainage on the Darby RD. Use in both Rock Creek and Little Rock Creek were significantly lower than usual this year, since both drainages were closed for most of August during the Rockin Fire.

Selway Bitterroot Wilderness managers would like to thank all the visitors who took the time to fill out registration cards. This information will be used to concentrate limited resources in areas with the highest potential for impacts, helping to protect your experience and the Wilderness resource.

Site Indicators: Campsite Monitoring

Site indicators are measured by the number of sites per square mile and by the number of sites per impact rating per square mile in relation to Opportunity Class standards (standards assigned according to the Limits of Acceptable Change monitoring system). 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. During 2005, rangers visited and monitored 175 campsites. Rangers also typically visit and naturalize a number of sites in addition to those slotted for official inventory.

The following table offers a summary of campsite information by Forest. Campsites are numbered according to their location in “Compartments”, which are management units that may encompass a watershed or other geographic area and often include multiple, smaller, Opportunity Class units.



2005 Campsite Monitoring Summary			
	Bitterroot	Clearwater	Nez Perce
# Resource compartments	46	10	24
# Rated Campsites on file (does not include those determined to be “recovered”)	386	276	311
# Campsite inventoried in 2005 % of total sites	21 (5.4%)	67 (24%)	87 (28%)
# New Sites	2	0	2
# Compartments w/ “Problem areas” which exceed Opportunity class standards- See Appendix B for details	35 (76%)	7 (70%)	6* (25%)

* It is relevant to note that compartments may vary tremendously in size, tending to be larger on the Nez Perce National Forest. Although the percentage of compartments on the Nez Perce NF is lower, this number does not necessarily reflect a smaller number of areas that are out of standard, it only indicates that the number of compartments containing out-of-standard areas is lower. Each Forest is working to more accurately determine the specific number of “Problem Areas” within each compartment.

Bitterroot National Forest:

A total of 21 campsites were monitored (5% of the total number of sites on the Selway Bitterroot portion of the Bitterroot NF). This number falls far short of the 20% per year goal, but baseline data is in place for virtually all sites and many are on schedule for the 5-year rotation. On the Darby District, 64% of sites have had repeat inventories completed within the last 5-year period and the 100% target might have been reached, if not for two major fire events interrupting field work. The Bitterroot NF is expecting a slight increase in the Wilderness/trail workforce in 2006, compared to 2004 and 2005, which will allow Wilderness rangers more field time monitoring sites. The general site impact trends have remained stable.

Clearwater National Forest:

In 2005, rangers conducted 67 official campsite inventories using the LAC process. This number represents 24% of the active campsites on file. Most areas previously identified as “problem areas” are still considered to be exceeding acceptable impacts. Compartments containing problem areas are listed in Appendix B with a brief description regarding why the area is considered out of standard. Given both site and social indicators, Stanley Hot Springs is one of the most impacted areas on the Clearwater that is exceeding acceptable impacts.

Nez Perce National Forest:

Wilderness rangers and volunteers monitored, cleaned or naturalized 87 campsites in 2005 (28 % of total sites). Sites near Moose Creek Ranger Station, along the Selway River, and in Three Forks area of Moose Creek are visited and naturalized, when necessary, several times each season.

The Moose Creek District files, indicate there are a total of 352 campsite inventories within 24 resource compartments (baseline data collected and monitored from 1976 through 2004.) Of the sites recorded since 1976, 41 have recovered or no longer exist. Fifty two sites are in the heavy impact category; 23 in the extreme; 70 in moderate; and 53 in light.

Sixteen problem areas identified in the Selway Bitterroot Management Direction were addressed in 2005. Conditions at Indian Lake, Bell Lake, Elbow Bend, Pinchot Creek, Cove Lakes, Two Lakes, Big Rock Mountain and Cedar Flats are known to have shown an upward trend (Details in Appendix B). 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 Mountain, Goat Lakes, the west end of Battle Ridge are on the monitoring schedule for 2006. Presently, there are no known changes to the impact ratings at these locations.

Potential problem areas, relative to both site and social indicators, include Isaac Lake and Maple Lake and Fog Saddle. Rangers have encountered and monitored increasing visitor traffic and some additional resource impacts in these areas. Continued monitoring for existence of new trails and new sites will be important in coming years to address any further impacts.

The area around the Moose Creek guard station continues to be a management challenge, because of the amount of use the area draws. Campsites near the airstrip, sites along the Selway River, a site outside the administrative compound and three other sites along Moose Creek all receive use to varying degrees. Sites along the airstrip are used consistently, but remain in a relatively 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. However, some sites along the river are losing vegetation and growing in size.

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 in the SBW, at the District Rangers' discretion. 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.

2005 SBW Airfield Landing data				
	Clearwater NF	Nez Perce NF		Total
	Fish Lake	Moose Cr.	Shearer	
# Monitoring Days	49	224	No Monitoring	
Private	38	602	---	640
Administrative for Facility	1	8	---	9
Other FS Administrative	2	16	---	18
Fire	0	7	---	7
Outfitters	10	107	---	10
Other	0	0	---	0
Total	51	740	---	791

Clearwater National Forest:

Fish Lake airstrip was accessible from approximately June 23 to Oct 1, 2005. Snow in early October shortened accessibility for planes. A series of 3 volunteers monitored landings at the airstrip from July 4 to Sept 4, with intermittent absences between staffing. Of the 49 days the airstrip was monitored, there were 22 days (44%) without landings.

An airstrip safety inspection was performed by Forest Service Aviation representatives on June 23, 2005. Additional maintenance was performed by volunteers. Their efforts included: filling in gopher holes, repairing signage and hitch rails and mowing the airstrip with the stock-drawn McCormick Deering No. 9 sickle mower, digging a new hole for the public latrine and standard cabin maintenance.



While this was the fourth consecutive year that landings were monitored, 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. However, results do provide a snapshot of the length of stay by fly-in visitors.

Fish Lake Airstrip Monitoring data recorded by station guards	2002	2003	2004	2005
# days monitored	52	31	26	49
# landings recorded	81	42	44	51
# days monitored w/ no landings	15	10	6	22
% landings where visitors stayed \leq 1 hour	62%	38%	64%	39%
% landings where visitors stayed between 1-5 hours	12%	5%	20%	10%
% landings where visitors stayed $>$ 5 hours	26%	57%	16%	51%

Notes:

2002: Monitoring occurred primarily in July & Aug.

2003: Monitoring occurred primarily in July & Aug. Fires closed the area to private landings for 15 days.

2004: Monitoring occurred primarily in July & Sept.

2005: Monitoring occurred primarily in July & Aug

In addition to landings recorded by station guards, 7 fly-in visitors, representing 23 individuals, voluntarily completed visitor travel cards. It is unknown how many of these visitors were also recorded by the station guards, so the numbers were not combined with the data provided above.

Nez Perce National Forest:

The Moose Creek airfield has two landing strips; a short strip (3,400ft), which is accessible all year and a long strip (4,100 ft) that is closed when the ground is too soft for safe landings. Moose Creek personnel and volunteers monitored the airfield from April 11 to November 22. Volunteer hosts staffed the Ranger Station, recorded flights and provided low impact camping information for pilots.

There were 100 fewer landings recorded in 2005 than during 2004, when the total number of landings reached 840. Private pilot use remained consistent in 2005, however flights identified “other administrative” (flights by Idaho Fish and Game, USGS, and other field/university research teams) decreased considerably because Idaho Fish and Game did not conduct game counts from Moose Cr. this season. Relative to 2004, Outfitter flights also decreased by approximately 50 flights, although the bear hunting overlap remained in effect. On a three-year trial basis, outfitters were permitted to overlap their use areas to encourage bear hunts in an effort to limit elk predation. Subsequently, outfitter flights have increased during the overlap period. Overall use indicates an upward trend, with nearly 200 more landings in 2005 than 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. Flights for support of fire increased in August; numbers of landings are not available.

SELWAY RIVER

The Moose Creek and West Fork Ranger Districts share the administration of the Selway River that runs from the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness and through the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness. The West Fork Ranger District on the Bitterroot National Forest administers the permit system, river outfitters, and launch site. The river ranger from Moose Creek Ranger Station on the Nez Perce National Forest has primary responsibility for the river corridor. River ranger duties include monitoring river and campsite conditions, ensuring compliance with regulations, naturalizing campsites, 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 2005 field season on the Selway River (May - July) proved quite productive, with 6 river patrols; including one preseason trip, four resource related /administrative trips and one post control period float. The river program has become soundly integrated with a diverse number of programs at the Regional and Forest levels. This year, patrols included fisheries biologists as well as attorneys from the Office of General Counsel and the Department of Justice. With the help of volunteers, the Paradise launch site was staffed Saturdays through Mondays each week and during holidays between May 5 and August 10.

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 this 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, alternate trip leaders are not designated. Reservations and permits are not required outside of the control period for private, non-commercial floaters. Preseason patrols began on May 12, 2005 to check for valid permits, immediately prior to the control period.

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 2,685 applications received in 2005, 52 private permits and 16 commercial permits were granted, which accounted for a total 743 people and 4,257 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 10 unused days during the 2005 control period.

The River Ranger reported degrading trends in some campsites along the Selway corridor. Camps near the Moose Creek Ranger Station show signs of expansion, soil compaction and an increase in social trails. The Roots, Jim's Creek, Dry Bar, Pinchot, and Goat Creek sites showed loss of vegetation and weed invasion.

Snow pack from the 2004-2005 winter was at 71% of normal on April 28, 2005 compared to 88% of normal on the same day 2004. Nez Perce Pass was opened with a grader on May 2, 2005. Shearer and Moose Creek airfields also provide fly-in access to river launch sites on the Nez Perce NF.

A detailed report of Selway River use in 2005 is included in Appendix A.

FOREST & WILDERNESS WEBSITES

The following websites are available on the internet via the worldwide web. These sites offer information regarding the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness, the National Wilderness Preservation System and the three National Forests that manage the SBW.

http://carhart.Wilderness.net/
http://www.Wilderness.net
http://leopold.Wilderness.net/
http://www.forestry.umt.edu/research/MFCES/programs/wi/
http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/bitterroot/
http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce/
http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater/

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Selway River Float Use

Appendix B: Campsite Monitoring Data

Appendix C: Wilderness Fire Data

Appendix A: 2005 Selway River Float Use

COMMERCIAL USE:	PEOPLE		USE DAYS	
	GUESTS	GUIDES	GUESTS	GUIDES
American River Touring Association	35	16	175	80
Northwest River Expeditions	48	16	288	96
Three Rivers Rafting	46	17	230	85
Whitewater Adventures	42	14	221	74
TOTAL	171	63	914	335

NON-COMMERCIAL USE:		
YEAR	PEOPLE	USE DAYS
2005	572	3008
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
2005	743	4257
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	16	15-16
1	11-13	15	11-14
2	8-10	14	6-10
		7	1-5

Average Party Size - 11			
TOTAL	16 PERMITS (24% commercial)	TOTAL	52 PERMITS (76% non-commercial)

Appendix B: 2005 Campsite Monitoring Data

<i>BITTERROOT NF: STEVENSVILLE RANGER DISTRICT</i>			
<i>COMPARTMENT #</i>	<i>PROBLEM AREAS?</i>	<i>IMPACT LEVEL/TREND</i>	<i>SITE DENSITY</i>
Carlton #101	Y	No new data	No change
One Horse #102	N	No new data	N/A
Sweeney #103	Y	No change	No change
Bass #104	Y	1 site at Bass lake improved from heavy to moderate.	1 less site – obliterated by Bass Dam reconstruction.
Kootenai #105	Y	+1 heavy site Middle Kootenai Lakes	+1 new site Kootenai Lakes
Big Creek #106	Y	+1 heavy site Big Creek	+1 new site Big Creek Lakes
Glen Lake #107	Y	No new data	No change
Bear Creek #108	Y	+ 1 newly inventoried heavy site below Bryan Lake	+1 newly inventoried site.
Fred Burr #109	N	No new data	N/A
Mill Creek #110	Y	No new data	No change
Blodgett Creek #111	Y	No new data	No change
S Fork Lolo #701	Y	No change	No change

Stats for 2005: Stevensville

Resource Compartments = 12

Total Resource sites = 122

Sites Listed as Recovered in 2005 = 0

Newly listed sites = 0

Extreme sites = 23

Heavy sites = 63 +2 = 65

Moderate sites = 86

Light sites = 80

BITTERROOT NF: DARBY RANGER DISTRICT			
COMPARTMENT #	PROBLEM AREAS?	IMPACT LEVEL TREND	SITE DENSITY TREND
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	No new data	No change
Rock Creek #205	Y	No new data	No change
Little Rock Creek #206	Y	1 Site improved 3 Sites remained stable 2 Sites deteriorated 2 New sites	1 New site in PA
Tin Cup #207	Y	1 Site improved 1 Site remained stable 1 Site deteriorated	No change
Chaffin #208	Y	No new data	No change
Trapper Creek #209	Y	1 Site deteriorated	NA

Stats for 2005: Darby

Resource Compartments = 9
 Total Resource Sites = 143
 Sites Listed as Recovered in 2005 = 0
 Newly listed sites = 2
 Extreme sites = 10
 Heavy sites = 29
 Moderate sites = 51
 Light sites = 52
 Not inventoried=1

<i>BITTERROOT NF: WEST FORK RANGER DISTRICT</i>			
<i>COMPARTMENT #</i>	<i>PROBLEM AREAS?</i>	<i>IMPACT LEVEL TREND</i>	<i>SITE DENSITY TREND</i>
Running Creek #401	N	N/A	NA
Selway #402	N	NA	NA
Gardiner Peak #403	N	NA	NA
Bad Luck #404	Y	No new data	No change
Lookout Creek #405	Y	No new data	No change
Whitecap #406	Y	No new data	No change
Canyon Ck. #407	Y	No new data	No change
Boulder Creek #408	Y	No new data	No change
Gem #409	Y	No new data	No change
Nelson #410	N	No new data	No change
Soda Springs #411	N	NA	NA
Little West Fork #412	N	NA	NA
Watchtower #413	N	NA	NA
Sheephead #414	Y	No new data	No change
Eagle Creek #415	Y	No new data	No change
Crooked Creek #416	N	NA	NA
Snake Creek #417	Y	No new data	NA
Schofield #418	Y	No new data	No change
Indian Creek #419	Y	No new data	No change
Beaver Jack #420	Y	No new data	No change
Cayuse Creek #421	Y	No new data	No change
Little Clearwater #422	Y	No new data	No change
Lodgepole #423	N	NA	NA
Salamander # 424	Y	No new data	No change
Magruder #425	Y	No new data	No change

Stats for 2005: West Fork

Resource Compartments = 25

Total Resource sites = 121

Sites inventoried in 2005 = 0 (Note that packer was seriously injured and Wilderness Ranger spent a good part of the summer packing trail crew, etc.)

CLEARWATER NF: LOCHSA RANGER DISTRICT

<i>COMPARTMENT #</i>	<i>PROBLEM AREAS?</i>	<i>OC</i>	<i>IMPACT LEVEL TREND</i>	<i>SITE DENSITY TREND</i>
Gold Hill N #507 (Outside SBW Boundary)	N		Constant, out of standard H & E	W/in standards
Boulder Creek #508	Y 3 areas			
▪ 7 Lakes Restoration Area		3	5 L, 8 M, 1 H improving	Approx 20 sites w/in sq. mile around lakes
▪ Long Lake		4	2 H, 1 M, constant	W/in standards
▪ Stanley Hot Springs		4	5 L, 11 M, 4 H, constant	Approx 20 sites w/in sq. mile of springs, worsening
Old Man #515	Y 3 areas			
▪ Florence Lake		1	5 L, 1 M improving	Out of standard, improving
▪ Maud/Lottie Lakes		3	6 L, 1 M, 3 H improving	Approx 8 sites w/in sq mi. improving
▪ Old Man Lake		3	1L, 3M Constant, out of standard	4 sites, out of standard by 1
Split Creek #516	N		NA	NA
Fire Creek #517	N		Improving	W/in standards

Stats for 2005: Lochsa

Resource Compartments = 5

Total Resource Sites = 117

Sites Listed as Recovered in 2005 = 1

Newly listed sites = 0

Extreme sites = 3

Heavy sites = 16

Moderate sites = 40

Light sites = 58

CLEARWATER NF: POWELL RANGER DISTRICT				
COMPARTMENT #	PROBLEM AREAS?	OC	IMPACT LEVEL TREND	SITE DENSITY TREND
Dan Ridge #402	Y 2 areas			
▪ Siah Lake		3	1L, 2M, 1 H, worsening, out of standard	Approx 4 sites, out of Standard
▪ White Sand Lake		2	3L, 2 M, improving, out of standard	Approx 5 sites, out of standard
Big Sands #403	Y 7 areas			
▪ Big Sand Lake		3	2 E, 1 M constant, out of standard	W/in standard
▪ Hidden Lake		3	2E, 2H, 2M, constant, out of standard	Approx 5 sites, out of standard
▪ Jeanette Lake		1	1M, constant, out of standard	W/in standard
▪ Trail 4		3	4 M, improving, out of standard	W/in standard
▪ Little Dead Elk Tr 5		3	1L, 1H, worsening out of standard	W/in standard
▪ Little Dead Springs		3	2 L, 1 H constant, out of standard	W/in standard
▪ Duck Lake		1	1 M, out of standard	W/in standard
Cedar Creek #405	Y 5 areas			
▪ Cedar/Moose Jct		3	1L, 1 H, improving, out of standard	W/in standard
▪ Trail 939		2	4L, 2M improving, out of standard	Approx 6 sites w/in sq mi. out of standard
▪ Porphyry Lakes		1	1L, 2M improving, out of standar	Approx 3 sites w/in sq mi, out of standard
▪ Maple Lake		3	1M, 2 E, worsening, out of standard	W/in standard
▪ Colt Lake		1	2 L, constant, out of standard	Out of standard
Warm Springs #406	Y 5 areas			
▪ Wind Lakes Cr.		3	2 L, 1M, 1H, improving, out of standard	Out of Standard
▪ Warm Springs Crossing		3	2 L, 2H improving, out of standard	Out of Standard
▪ Army Mule/ Warm Springs		3	1L, 1M, 1E constant, out of standard	W/in standard
▪ Wind Lakes		3	1L, 4M, 2H, improving	Approx 7 sites w/in sq.mi, out of standard
▪ Chain Meadows		3	1M, 2H, 1 E, improving, out of standard	Approx 4 sites w/in sq mi, out of standard
Fish Lake #407	Y 2 areas			
▪ Fish Lake near cabin		4	1M, 3H, 1E Worsening, out of standard	W/in standard
▪ Fish Lake east meadows		3	2 H, 1 E, Consistent	W/in standard

Stats for 2005: Powell

Resource Compartments = 5

Total Resource Sites = 159

Sites Listed as Recovered in 2005 = 4

Newly listed sites = 0

Extreme sites = 16

Heavy sites = 27

Moderate sites = 51

Light sites = 65

NEZ PERCE NF: MOOSE CREEK RANGER DISTRICT

<i>COMPARTMENT #</i>	<i>PROBLEM AREA</i>	<i>OC</i>	<i>IMPACT LEVEL/TREND</i>	<i>SITE DENSITY</i>
Indian Lake #102	Y	3	Improved	1 extreme (outfitter) 2 moderate
Drake Saddle # 202	Y	4	No new data	5 or 6 sites
S. Three Links #203	Y	2	No new data	5 light, 3 moderate
Pinchot #203	N	4	Improved	1 heavy, 1 light
Cove Lakes #203	Y	3	Improved	1 heavy, 2 light
Big Rock Mtn. #203	N	3	Improved	1 moderate, 2 light
Cedar Flats #203	N	4	Improved	1 moderate
Heath Creek #204	N	2	Improved	No indication of recent use
Lizard Lake #204	Y	2	No new data	3 moderate
McConnell Mtn. #204	Y	3	No new data	1 heavy
Barren Hill # 204	Y	3	No new data	OG extreme
S. McConnell Ridge #204	?	2	No new data	OG heavy
Two Lakes #204	Y	3	Improved	1 heavy, 2 moderate
Bell Lake #??	Y	3	Improved	3 moderate
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
W. end of Battle Ridge #205		1	No new data	Old OG camp

Note: Compartment numbers are being updated on the Nez Perce NF. While the sites within the compartments are not affected, compartment numbers may vary until the system has been reorganized.

Stats for 2005: Moose Cr.

Improved sites-9

Stable sites-1

Deteriorating sites- 0 in areas monitored

No trend available (not monitored in 2005)-7

New sites- 0 in areas monitored

Appendix: C 2005 SBW Fire Details

Forest	Fire name	Size (acres)	District	Latitude	Longitude	Cause	Strategy
Bitterroot NF	Rockin Complex	6,889	Darby	T3N R22W Sec 23		Lightning	Contain
	Salmon-Selway Complex	25,549	West Fork	T2N R22E Sec 6		Lightning	WFU
Clearwater NF	Lochsa Peak	5	Lochsa	46 18.67	115 19.88	Lightning	WFU
	Storm Cr.	.1	Powell	46 29.42	114 31.36	Lightning	WFU
	Last Chance	.1	Powell	46 32.17	114 29.85	Lightning	WFU
	Freezeout	1	Powell	46 23.18	114.02.0	Lightning	WFU
	Greystone	1	Powell	46 23.0	115 03.9	Lightning	WFU
	Mocus	8	Powell	46 25.12	115 01.44	Lightning	WFU
	Helix	125	Powell	46 23.0	115 02.1	Lightning	WFU
	Cedar	247	Powell	46 18.93	114 41.27	Lightning	Suppress
	Sponge Creek	449	Powell	46 20.69	115 50.09	Lightning	WFU
	Big Sands	2,398	Powell	46 20.55	114 35.29	Lightning	WFU
Nez Perce NF	Saddle Fork	.1	Moose Cr.	46 10.97	115 03.60	Lightning	WFU
	Elk Creek	1,335	Moose Cr.	45 58.48	114 53.15	Lightning	WFU
	Wounded Doe	559	Moose Cr.	46 16.38	115 01.66	Lightning	WFU
	Wahoo	99	Moose Cr.	46 10.55	114 39.45	Lightning	WFU
	Elbow	.1	Moose Cr.	46 10.55	114 38.85	Lightning	WFU
	Ditch Creek	.1	Moose Cr.	46 01.61	114 53.28	Lightning	WFU
	Penny	1,067	Moose Cr.	46 01.25	114 51.94	Lightning	WFU
	Ridgetop	.1	Moose Cr.	46 01.60	114 51.80	Lightning	WFU
	Brushy Fork	394	Moose Cr.	45 59.33	114 42.90	Lightning	WFU
	Bell Point	153	Moose Cr.	46 14.25	114 43.86	Lightning	WFU
	Running Lake	8,056	Moose Cr.	45 55.70	115 02.02	Lightning	WFU
	Long Prairie	.1	Moose Cr.	45 55.21	114 59.62	Lightning	WFU
	West Moose	.1	Moose Cr.	46 18.90	114 56.59	Lightning	WFU
	Total Acres	47,335.8					