

## Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness – 2006 State of the Wilderness Report

The annual State of the Wilderness (SOW) report is developed to share information between the public and agency staff regarding management activities in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness (SBW). Past SOW reports have included detailed analysis more helpful to managers than the general public. This abbreviated SOW gives a summary overview of SBW management, visitor use and campsite monitoring efforts that we hope meets public needs and interests. Contact the managing National Forest (Bitterroot, Clearwater & Nez-Perce) with questions or comments.

### Status Reports

#### *Noxious Weeds DEIS*

Noxious Weeds - A Draft Environmental Impact Statement for managing invasive plants in and adjacent to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness is near completion. Scoping for the Proposed Action began Oct. 26, 2006 and continued through the end of November. The ID Team has developed, and is in the process of analyzing, five alternatives (the Proposed Action, the No Action Alternative, and three additional alternatives). The anticipated date for release of the DEIS is by the end of September.

#### *Forest Plan Revision*

The Bitterroot National Forest is revising their land management plan to reflect new scientific information as well as natural and social changes that have accumulated since the original plan was prepared, in the 1980's. In March 2007 the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California enjoined the Forest Service from implementing the 2005 Planning Rule, which is the rule used in development of the revision. The Forest will not release a new land management plan until issues related to this court decision are resolved.

#### *10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge*

<b>Accomplishment Level</b>	<b>Top Possible Score</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
Fire Plans	10	10	10
Noxious/Invasive Weeds	10	5	5
Air Quality	10	10	10
Education	10	4	6
Solitude	10	6	5
Recreation Site Inventories	10	6	4
Outfitter & Guide Operations	10	8	10
Monitoring Standards	10	8	8
Information Needs	6	2	2
Workforce	10	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>62</b>

In 2006, the definitions for category scoring were improved to refine the intent of categories and ratings. Changes between 2006 and 2005 reflect this improved scoring.

## Wilderness Program Accomplishment Summary

Type of Activity	Unit of Measure	Bitterroot NF	Clearwater NF	Nez-Perce NF	2006 Total	2005 Total
<b>Field Presence</b>	Wilderness Rangers (include River Rangers)	2 (3 <sup>rd</sup> out season with injury)	4	2	10	9
	Wilderness Ranger Field Days	64	189	327	580	NA
	Volunteers	19	19	22	60	73
	Volunteer Hours	299	1,485	4,148	5,932	7,226
<b>Education</b>	Formal Education Programs	13	26	2	41	34
	Audience Members Reached	425	760	115	1,300	1,510
<b>Trails</b>	Miles of Trail Maintained	160.9	232.7	164.5	558.1	793.7
	Total Wilderness Trail Miles	458.8	325.3	706.6	1,490.7	1,490.7
<b>Known Use / Visitation (Unknown # visitors not contacted or registered)</b>	Individuals Contacted by Wilderness Rangers in the Field	321	375	300	996	1,178
	Trailhead Registration	1575	786	62 From BNF	2,423	2,750
	Monitoring Days / Landings at Moose Cr. Airstrip	NA	NA	137/436	137/436	224/794
	Monitoring Days / Landings at Shearer Airstrip	NA	NA	31/53	31/53	No Monitoring
	Monitoring Days / Landings at Fish Lake Airstrip	NA	72/144	NA	72/144	49/51
<b>O/G use</b>	Outfitters	18	5	14	37	37
	Camps Used in the SBW	49	16	26	91	65
	Camps Inspected	19	22	15	56	47
<b>Violations</b>	Violations Recorded (incidents & citations combined)	6	17	4	27	82
<b>Campsites</b>	Total Existing Campsites/ Campsite Inventory Baseline Completed	401/387	292/292	311/311	1,004/990	973/973
	Campsites w/ Inventory Accomplished in 5 Year Cycle & (% of Total Campsites)	329 (82%)	290 (99%)	30 (10%)	649 (65%)	NA
	Campsite Inventory Accomplished 2006 & (% of Total Campsites)	49 (15%)	93 (32%)	13 (04%)	153 (15%)	175 (11%)
<b>Fire</b>	Wilderness Fire Events	20	4	26	50	64
	Wilderness Acres Burned	4631.2	1,253.35	5,614.1	11,499	47,336
<b>Authorizations</b>	Mechanical Use Authorizations	15	2	4	21	14

The Clearwater NF noted 7 new campsites. The larger increase in campsites is primarily due to reviewing files. In 2006, mechanized/motorized authorizations were for administrative use (3), fire (9), work on dams (7) and Search & Rescue (2). In 2005, authorizations were for administrative use (2), fire (7), work on dams (4) and Search & Rescue (1).