

2004 Monitoring and Evaluation Report

**Payette National Forest
Land and Resource Management Plan**

August 2005

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ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1: 2004 Fish Passage and Road Crossings Assessment
- Attachment 2: Payette NF Annual Summary Report: 2001-2004. Effectiveness Monitoring Program for Streams and Riparian Areas within the Upper Columbia River Basin
- Attachment 3: 2004 Update to Deposition of Fine Sediment in the Salmon River Watershed, Boise and Payette National Forests
- Attachment 4: Boise, Payette, Sawtooth Forest Plans Errata #4: Appendix A
- Attachment 5: Forest Plan Amendment #1

2004 MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT

PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

AUGUST 2005

I. Introduction

1.1 The Forest and The Forest Plan

The Payette National Forest is located in west central Idaho in Adams, Idaho, Valley, and Washington Counties (see Figure 1). The Forest is bordered on the south by the Boise National Forest, on the east by the Salmon-Challis National Forest, on the north by the Nez Perce National Forest, and on the west by the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in Oregon. The Forest Supervisor's Office is located in McCall, Idaho, approximately 100 miles north of Boise. The Forest is comprised of five ranger districts—Council, Weiser, New Meadows, McCall, and Krassel—with district headquarters in Council, Weiser, and New Meadows, and two in McCall.

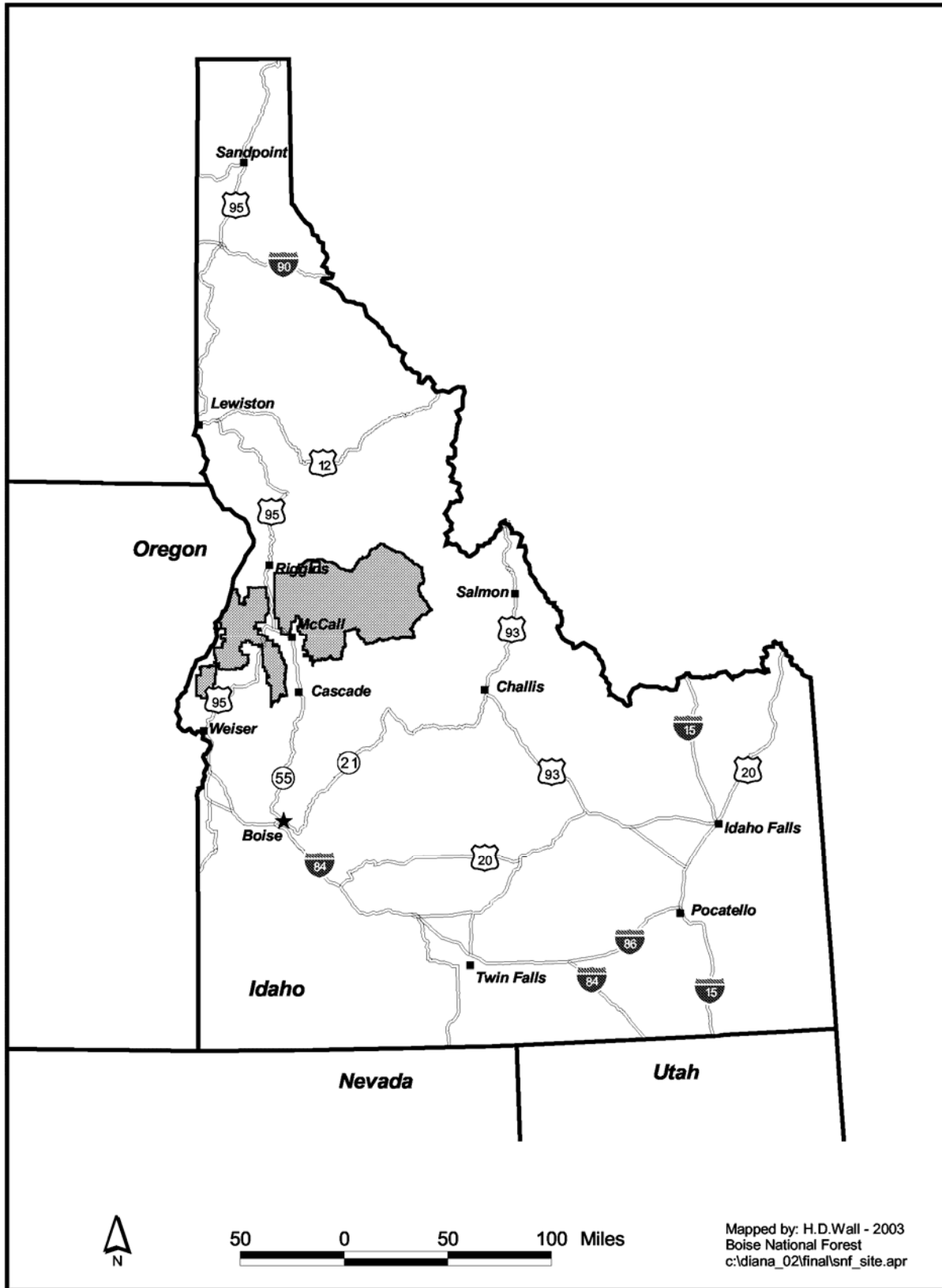
The Forest is an administrative unit of the Intermountain Region (Region 4) of the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Regional Forester's office is in Ogden, Utah.

In 2003, the Payette National Forest (the Payette) completed revision of its 1988 Land and Resource Management Plan (hereafter, called the 1988 Forest Plan). The Regional Forester signed the Record of Decision for the revised Forest Plan on July 25, 2003. The revised Plan (hereafter also called the Plan) went into effect September 7, 2003. The Plan defines a strategy for the next 10-15 years. It describes desired conditions for Forest ecosystems. It sets goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines that emphasize maintaining and restoring watershed conditions, species viability, terrestrial and aquatic habitats, and healthy, functioning ecosystems. It also lists monitoring requirements.

This Monitoring and Evaluation Report reflects the first full year of implementing the revised Plan. It reports Forest monitoring activities and accomplishments for fiscal year (FY) 2004, which was from October 2003 through September 2004.

Payette National Forest is required to develop a process referred to as "Framework". The intent of "Framework" was outlined by the Level IV appointed Aquatic Review Team and the regulatory agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and National Oceanographic Administration, Fisheries (NOAA)). It was to conduct assessments at some scale between the Forest level and the project level. These assessments will utilize direction in the revised Forest Plan (desired conditions, goals, objective, standards and guidelines), the Record of Decision, and any applicable Errata, as well as direction in the Biological Opinion (BOs) from the regulatory agencies. The purpose of these assessments is to review and update baseline information used in Forest Plan Revision, identify needs to move the land and its resources toward desired condition or to maintain desired condition, and then prioritize those needs for accomplishment. In other words, Framework is a process that will link from the Forest scale to the Project scale, and also link from the Forest scale to the landscape scale. For the Payette, the Interior Columbia Basin is the landscape scale. In May of 2004, the Boise, Payette, and Sawtooth National Forests provided the regulatory agencies with their proposal to begin the Framework process. Implementation of the process began in August 2004.

Figure 1. Location of Payette National Forest



1.2 Forest Plan Monitoring and Evaluation

The goal of Plan monitoring is to determine what in the Plan is working well and what is not, and to help identify what changes are needed in management direction or monitoring methods.

Monitoring and evaluation are key parts of adaptive management. They track how projects are meeting the Plan's desired condition. They provide the information to keep the Forest Plan viable. Monitoring and evaluation tell how Forest Plan decisions have been implemented, how effective the implementation has proven to be in accomplishing desired outcomes, and how valid the underlying the management strategy expressed in the Forest Plan.

Chapter IV of the Plan, "Implementation," describes the Payette's monitoring and evaluation strategy. It lists the activities, practices, and effects to monitor and the indicators, or measures, to track in Tables IV-1 and IV-2. While most of the elements require annual data gathering, most are to evaluate the effects of management over several years. Therefore, results of monitoring for most elements will be reported after evaluation of data gathered over multiple years.

As this is the first year of monitoring under the revised Plan, this monitoring report focuses on the elements from Tables IV-1 and IV-2 that are to be reported annually.

1.3 Applying Forest Plan Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the Forest Plan have focused on implementation success (that is, achievement of plan objectives), and on decisions made in the 2003 Record of Decision for the Forest Plan. Monitoring elements also include requirements from the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) and NFMA Regulations as well as other pertinent laws and regulations. (Although the Forest Service issued new 36 CFR 219 NFMA planning regulations in January 2005, the Forest Plan was prepared under the 1982 planning regulations, which remain in effect to that extent.)

Monitoring also tracks compliance with the requirements in the biological opinions on the revised Forest Plan by the regulatory agencies USFWS and NOAA Fisheries.

Monitoring and evaluation of key results over time will help determine if projects are making satisfactory progress toward the desired conditions in the Plan, or if a "need for change" in the existing strategy has arisen in light of the conditions at that time. As long as the information gained from year to year indicates that Plan implementation strategy is making acceptable progress toward Plan desired conditions, then there is no need for change in that strategy. However, if evaluation concludes that the Forest Plan strategy is not effective, then the Forest Supervisor would make the determination as to what "needs for change" exist, and whether Plan errata, amendment, or revision would be needed to make the change.

If evaluation of monitoring results indicates any monitoring requirements or their methodology are ineffective or outdated, then that conclusion would provide an empirical basis for initiating change.

1.4 Report Organization

Section 2.1 below shows the five monitoring elements required to be reported annually listed in **Table IV-1** of the Forest Plan, "Forest Plan Evaluation Expectations." This Table lists elements related to NFMA and other laws and regulations that are reported annually, and others that are reported every five years. Elements not reported each year require the collection of information over multiple years before meaningful evaluation is possible. Thus, in this first complete-year monitoring report under the 2003

Plan, only the five elements identified with a “**Yes**” in the “Annual Posting of Results?” column of Table IV-1 are addressed in this report.

Section 2.2 shows the five monitoring elements required to be reported annually in **Table IV-2** of the Forest Plan, “Monitoring Elements.” This Table lists questions and indicators to monitor to determine the success of the Forest Plan management strategy in progressing toward desired conditions. As with Table IV-1, most indicators require multiple years of data collection before meaningful evaluation. Therefore, only the four monitoring questions and their related indicators with “**Annually**” in the “Report Period” column of Table IV-2 are addressed in this report.

Section 2.3 describes the project level monitoring completed in 2004. This monitoring collects some of the information needed to address annual monitoring elements in Tables IV-1 and IV-2, as well as the elements that have annual information needs to evaluate and report every 2, 3, or 5 years.

2. 2004 Monitoring and Evaluation

2.1 Five Annual Monitoring Elements from Table IV-1

2.1.1 Evaluation of Performance

This section provides a “quantitative estimate of performance comparing outputs and services with those predicted by the forest plan,” as required by Forest Plan Table IV-1, p. IV-5.

As defined in the Forest Plan, objectives are “concise time-specific statements of actions or results designed to help achieve goals.” As such, objectives provide the best projection of outputs and services to be provided through implementation of the Forest Plan. The following narrative lists the relevant objectives and the Forest’s accomplishments for those objectives designed to provide for specific services on an annual basis, and/or projected outputs, resulting from management actions.

Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, Candidate Species

Objective TEOB23. *Develop operational resources (maps, keys, desk guides, etc.) within 1 year of signing the ROD, to coordinate TEPC species concerns and practical mitigations, and include those resource tools in the Fire Management Plan. Consult with NMFS and USFWS on operational resources on an annual basis.*

Accomplishment. In fiscal year 2004, the Payette developed a fire management guidebook and applied it during the 2004 fire season. The *Resource Advisor’s Guide* for the Payette National Forest (June 2004) contains guidance consistent with the Payette’s completed consultation on listed fish species. The Payette provided a Resource Advisor Training session for Payette employees on the use of the guidelines March 14-15, 2005. An emergency consultation on the Nick Fire retardant drop occurred. Currently, NOAA and FWS are writing BOs based on a BA finalized and transmitted under Forest Supervisor’s cover letter of February 15, 2005.

Soil, Water, Aquatic Resources

Objective SWOB11. *Coordinate with state and local agencies and tribal governments annually to limit or reduce degrading effects from stocking programs on native and desired non-native fish and aquatic species.*

Accomplishment. The Payette held a coordination meeting on March 10, 2004 with the Nez Perce Tribe. It also held a coordination meeting with Idaho Fish and Game in the field on April 27, 2004, and in the office June 18, 2004.

Wildlife Resources

Objective WIOB7. *Maintain or restore each PVG in each watershed (5th field hydrologic unit) to provide at least 20 percent of the forest vegetation in the large tree size class (medium tree size class in PVG 10).*

Accomplishment. Four timber sales harvested acres in FY04. Three were early projects planned and approved under the 1988 Forest Plan. Hall Fire Salvage was approved under the 2003 Forest Plan. They occurred within the following watersheds, or fifth-field hydrologic units (5th HUs):

Second Chance Timber Sale. Goose Creek HU5. Seven acres of stratum 25, which would qualify as large tree, were cut in PVG 6 by reserve-tree treatment and are no longer large tree. Prior to harvest, 30.1 percent (2,198 acres) of the forest vegetation was in large tree size class in PVG 6 in this HU. After harvest, there is 30.0 percent (2,191 acres). This would meet the “at least 20 percent” objective for large tree size in the revised Forest Plan. The prescription for this harvest was to leave existing large diameter seral ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and western larch; and to cut grand fir and mistletoe-bearing Douglas-fir. Because this was a low to moderately-stocked stand before harvest, the retained seral species trees are not numerous enough to qualify the stand as large tree size class.

Brownlee Timber Sale. Brownlee HU5. Fifty-three acres of stratum 23, which would qualify as large tree, were cut in PVG 6 by reserve-tree treatment and are no longer large tree. Prior to harvest, 19.4 percent (1,122 acres) of the forest vegetation was in large tree size class in PVG 6 in this HU. After harvest, there is 18.5 percent (1,069 acres). This would not meet the “at least 20 percent” objective for large tree size in the revised Plan. The prescription for this harvest was to leave existing vigorous large-diameter seral ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and western larch; and to cut grand fir and dwarf-mistletoe bearing Douglas-fir and western larch.

Clear As Mud Timber Sale. Upper Little Salmon River HU5. A total of 75 acres in PVGs 2 and 6 were cut by regeneration treatment. All cutting occurred in strata classified as medium tree (strata 34 and 35) instead of large tree, so there is no change to large tree component in this HU.

Hall Fire Salvage Sale. Mill-Warm Spring and Upper Weiser River HU5s. This was salvage of dead trees only, with no change to large tree component in these HUs.

In addition, one prescribed fire project, the Parks-Eiguren Burn, was accomplished in the Lower East Fork South Fork Salmon River (HU5). It covered approximately 2,554 acres, and did not change any acres of large tree component.

Table 1. Large Tree Percentages for Fifth Field Watersheds where Timber Activities Occurred in 2004

Fifth Field Watershed	PVG 1	PVG 2	PVG3	PVG4	PVG5	PVG6	PVG7	PVG8	PVG9	PVG10	PVG11
<i>Goose Creek (change in PVG6)</i>	27.0	17.7	37.9	0	25.2	30.1 (30.0)	9.8	14.7	13.4	18.9	8.3
<i>Brownlee Creek (change in PVG6)</i>	26.5	32.6	11.8	25.5	22.0	19.4 (18.5)	17.1	0	2.4	0	48.6
<i>Upper Little Salmon</i>	16.1	16.9	0	0	27.6	14.3	14.8	16.9	0	0	0
<i>Mill-Warm Spring</i>	30.7	24.5	0	0	34.8	32.9	12.1	0	3.2	0	0
<i>Upper Weiser</i>	23.1	22.3	50.0	0	22.3	18.8	14.7	0	12.7	11.2	93.9
<i>Lower EFSFSR</i>	18.2	27.4	0	21.1	33.3	40.0	8.7	11.1	22.4	9.2	5.5

Botanical Resources

Objective BTOB04. *Maintain annually a list of Forest Watch plants that identify species of concern (see Table 2 for a list of species).*

Accomplishment: In fiscal year 2003, the Payette maintained a watch species list of six species. In fiscal year 2004, the Forest added six species to the list. They were five Federal candidate and threatened plants that occur in Idaho but do not occur on the Payette; and Indian Valley sedge (*Carex aboriginum*) was recently found near Council, Idaho.

Table 2. 2004 Watch List of Rare Plants on the Payette National Forest

Scientific Name	Common Name	Districts *	Status	Habitat
<i>Botrychium lineare</i>	Skinny moonwort	New Meadows, McCall, Krassel, Council	USFWS-candidate PNF-watch	Lodgepole pine & spruce forests and meadows.
<i>Howellia aquatilis</i>	Water Howellia	Weiser, Council, New Meadows, Krassel, McCall	USFWS-threatened PNF-watch	Aquatic plants found in ponds and river oxbows
<i>Mirabilis macfarlanei</i>	MacFarlane's four-o'clock	Council, McCall, New Meadows	USFWS-threatened PNF-watch	Hells Canyon, Salmon River grasslands
<i>Silene spaldingii</i>	Spalding's catchfly	Council, New Meadows, McCall, Krassel	USFWS-threatened PNF-watch	Hells Canyon, Salmon River Fescue grasslands
<i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	Ute ladies tresses	New Meadows, McCall, Krassel, Council, Weiser	USFS-threatened PNF-watch	Moist soils near riparian areas, springs, lakes, meadows, and river meanders
<i>Allotropa virgata</i>	Candystick	McCall	PNF-watch	Lodgepole pine forest
<i>Carex aboriginum</i>	Indian Valley sedge	Council	PNF-watch	Wetlands
<i>Carex buxbaumii</i>	Buxbaumi sedge	McCall	PNF-watch	Wetlands
<i>Douglasia idahoensis</i>	Idaho Douglasia	McCall, New Meadows, Krassel	PNF-watch	Forest gaps, high elevations
<i>Eatonella nivea</i>	White eatonella	Council	PNF-watch	Grasslands
<i>Mimulus clivicola</i>	Bankmonkey flower	New Meadows, Council, Weiser	PNF-watch	Forest gap

* occurring or potentially occurring

Fire Management

Objective FMOB04. *Schedule and complete at least 100,000 acres of fuels management through prescribed fire and mechanical treatments in the next decade to achieve desired vegetation attributes and fuel reduction goals. Focus on wildland/urban interface and areas in Fire Regimes 1, 2, and 3 (non-lethal, mixed1, mixed2) in Condition Classes 2 and 3 (moderate to extreme hazard rating).*

Accomplishment. During fiscal year 2004, the Payette treated 7,357 acres of hazardous fuels. The treatment mix was 45 percent WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) and 55 percent Non-WUI. Table 2 shows the types of acres. A combination of both prescribed burning and mechanical fuels treatment was used. Although current national direction is to provide a 50/50 mix of WUI/Non-WUI, it is nationally and regionally recognized that not all Forests have this land distribution. Therefore, Forests such as the Payette are expected to produce more of the Non-WUI acres to help balance WUI acres elsewhere. When going beyond the WUI, direction is to place a priority on those areas of the Forest within fire regimes 1, 2, and 3 (frequent fire regimes) that are also classified as condition classes 2 and 3 (those most departed from historic conditions). The work that the Payette completed in the Non-WUI portion of the Forest in 2004 did occur in these areas and has helped to move them toward lower condition class ratings.

Table 3. Hazardous Fuels Treated, Fiscal Year 2004

FY 2004	WUI Treatments	WUI Acres	Non-WUI Treatments	Non-WUI Acres	Total Treatments	Total Acres
Mechanical	2	755	2	1933	4	2688
Prescribed Fire	1	2554	1	2115	2	4669
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	3	3309	3	4048	6	7357

(Note: Acres may not match acres in Payette NF "2004 Activities" report (June 2005) due to differences in activity definitions and assumptions.)

Timberland Resources

Objective TROB01 (Timber): *Provide timber harvest, and related reforestation and timber stand improvement activities, to contribute toward the attainment of desired vegetation conditions. Annually, during the next 10 to 15 years:*

- (a) *Harvest timber, other than by salvage, on an average of approximately 5,500 acres,*
- (b) *Reforest an average of approximately 1,500 acres, and*
- (c) *Complete timber stand improvement activities on an average of approximately 3,000 acres.*

Accomplishment: Table 3 shows the acres harvested, reforested, and thinned. Acres treated are the result of a timber planning pipeline of months or years. The shortfall in timber harvested, reforested, and thinned reflects past sales approved under the previous Forest Plan, not the 2003 Plan. Most of these were enjoined by litigation or delayed in response to litigation. New projects being prepared and approved under the new Plan are not yet through the pipeline.

Table 4. Timber Area Treated 2004

	Total Timber Harvested (Acres)	Total Salvage (Acres)	Total Other than Salvage (Acres)	Total Reforested (Acres)	Total Timber Stand Improvement (Acres)
Completed	416	183	233	509	2,041

Objective TROB02: *Make available an estimated 325 million board feet of timber for the decade, which will contribute to Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ).*

Accomplishment: In fiscal year 2004, the Payette made available (offered) approximately 20.1 million board feet (MMBF) of timber which contributed to the ASQ. This consisted of 12.7 MMBF of green and 7.4 MMBF of salvage timber. This shortfall from the average of 32.5 MMBF per year is primarily the result of the above factors listed in Objective TROB01.

Objective TROB03: *Utilize wood products (e.g., fuelwood, posts, poles, houselogs, etc.) generated from vegetation treatment activities, on both suited and not suited timberlands, to produce an estimated 80 million board feet of volume for the decade. This volume, when combined with ASQ, is the Total Sale Program Quantity (TSPQ). The TSPQ for the first decade is estimated to be 405 million board feet.*

Accomplishment: The Payette made available (offered) approximately 2.0 million board feet (MMBF) of wood products (fuelwood, posts and poles, houselogs, etc.). When combined with the 20.1 MMBF contributing to ASQ (TROB02, above), the Payette made available 22.1 MMBF that contributed to the Total Sale Program Quantity (TSPQ). This is approximately half of that expected as an annual average.

Minerals and Geology

Objective MIOB02: *Develop and implement within one year standardized inspection, monitoring, and reporting requirements for minerals activities to provide for environmentally sound exploration, development, and production of mineral and energy resources.*

Accomplishment: Although not complete in fiscal year 2004, the Forest Service Minerals and Geology Program is developing a mineral operations database (web-based component of INFRA, the Forest Service integrated national resource database). The new database will be fully implemented in the spring or summer of 2006. The database design is complete and has received an initial review by field users. The database includes inspection and monitoring forms, as well as reminders for bond reviews. Implementation of an inspection protocol for both locatable and salable minerals occurred in FY2004.

Facilities and Roads

Objective FROB01: *Analyze road system needs and associated resource effects in accordance with the established agency policy direction for roads analysis.*

Accomplishment: Agency policy requires Roads Analysis Process (Forest Service Manual FSM 7712.1). The Payette completed two project-level Roads Analysis Processes (RAPs) and updated a watershed-level RAP with new direction and requirements from the Revised Forest Plan in FY 2004. Fine scale analysis identifying opportunities to reduce road-related degrading effects was also addressed in one project level NEPA document.

Objective FROB04: *During fine scale analyses, identify opportunities to reduce road related degrading effects to help achieve other resource objectives.*

Accomplishment: New Meadows District completed the Meadows Slope RAP, which covered about 10 square miles with 81 miles of road. The RAP was in support of a fuels reduction project within the wild-land urban interface on the west side of Meadows Valley. Recommendations for maintenance, reconstruction, decommissioning, access management, and new construction were made for each individual road.

McCall District completed the Paddy Flat RAP, which covered 10.5 square miles in the Paddy Flat area. The RAP was in support of the proposed Paddy Flat Vegetation Management Project and covered 83 miles of road. Recommendations for maintenance, reconstruction, decommissioning, access management, and new construction were made for each individual road.

Council District updated the Bear Watershed RAP to reflect changes in management direction from the revised Forest Plan in FY 2004. The Bear Watershed RAP covers 90 square miles on the west side of Council District near the community of Bear. A total of 407 miles of road were analyzed with

recommendations for maintenance, reconstruction, decommissioning, access management, and new construction made for each individual road. The Bear RAP was in support of several ongoing projects (Lick and Summit vegetation management projects) as well as future projects in the Bear area.

The Payette NF completed project level NEPA analysis that included reduction of road related degrading effects. The Green Hornet fuels reduction project on Council Ranger District identified 3.3 miles of road reconstruction, 2.7 miles of road maintenance, and 0.6 miles of road relocation. Activities included replacement of worn-out drainage structures, reshaping road surfaces, spot graveling, and decommissioning 0.4 mile of road.

The project level RAPs followed the established agency policy for roads analysis. The specific policy of “actively engaging the public in transportation analysis” during the roads analysis process was minimally met. Improvements in public involvement at the RAP level would give the public more input in managing roads and access on the Payette National Forest.

Objective FROB02: *Cooperate with federal, state, and county agencies, tribal governments, and cost share partners to achieve consistency in road design, operation, and maintenance needed to attain resource goals; and:*

Objective FROB05: *Coordinate transportation systems, management, and decommissioning with other federal, state and county agencies, tribal governments, permittees, contractors, cost-share cooperators, and the public to develop a shared transportation system serving the needs of all parties to the extent possible.*

Accomplishments (for Objectives FROB02 and FRB05): In fiscal year 2004, a total of seven rights-of-way were acquired: four road easements (totaling 4.14 miles), and three trail easements (totaling 3.95 miles).

A cost share supplement is a project-specific agreement under a Master Road Right-of-Way Construction and Use Agreement by which the Government and Cooperators join in developing and maintaining a road system serving their ownerships and sharing costs thereof. Two cost share supplements were executed with the State of Idaho to develop a shared transportation system. The Forest granted one cost share road easement to the State (8.07 miles in Paddy Flat) and shared in the reconstruction of a portion of the Buck Park Road No. 50055 near Hornet Creek.

The Payette conducted annual spring cost share meetings with Boise Cascade Corporation and the State of Idaho Department of Lands to coordinate cost share road maintenance plans Forest-wide. The purpose of the meetings was to make efficient use of resources and funds to manage our shared road network.

The Payette worked with Adams County to convey a FRTA (Forest Roads and Trails Act) public road easement on a portion of the Johnson Creek Road No. 50038.

The Payette issued one private road easement and five road use permits. The Payette also terminated two easements for a road no longer needed: 2.71 miles for Jughandle Road No. 50332, which is now under State of Idaho jurisdiction.

Objective FROB03: *Identify safety hazards on Forest classified roads, establish improvement priorities, correct or mitigate the hazard.*

Road management objectives are established for each road segment. The Payette has 709 miles of passenger car roads (maintenance level 3, 4, or 5¹), 1,260 miles of high-clearance (maintenance level 2) roads, and 1,118 miles of closed (maintenance level 1) roads. Between 2000 and 2004, 100 percent of the passenger car roads were surveyed to determine maintenance needs. All identified maintenance needs were placed into the deferred maintenance² backlog until such time as they are addressed through future programs of work.

Road condition surveys were completed on a sub-sample of the total miles of closed and high-clearance (level 1 and 2) roads each of the last four years. In 2004, eight miles of level 1 roads and seven miles of level 2 roads were surveyed. Similar to that for maintenance level 3-5 roads, all identified maintenance needs were placed into the deferred maintenance backlog. Deferred maintenance backlog items (critical and non-critical items) are carried forward for consideration in annual programs of work based on funding.

In fiscal year 2004, the Payette maintained 261 miles of road. This includes 30 miles of level 1, 58 miles of level 2, 126 miles of level 3, 42 miles of level 4, and 4 miles of level 5 roads. Identified safety hazards were corrected during the maintenance.

The Payette classified road system includes 76 bridges. Most are on a 2-year inspection cycle; therefore, approximately 50 percent of the bridges were inspected in 2004 to determine if they support design uses (that is, Road Management Objectives) and legal highway limits.

Objective FROB06: *Identify roads and facilities that are not needed for land and resource management, and evaluate for disposal or decommissioning.*

Accomplishment: Roads not needed for land and resource management are identified in project level RAP and evaluated for disposal or decommissioning with project level NEPA analysis. Decommissioning or disposal can occur after completion of the NEPA process and signature of the NEPA decision by the responsible official. During fiscal year 2004, a total of 29.7 miles of un-classified roads, and 9.3 miles of classified roads, were decommissioned.

Objective FROB09: *Develop a Forest Facilities Master Plan depicting facility location, unit standards, existing and proposed buildings, and related improvements.*

In fiscal year 2004, the Payette National Forest completed a facilities master plan. The plan evaluated existing administrative facilities and identified unneeded facilities. The unneeded facilities identified in will be evaluated for disposal or decommissioning.

Objective FROB010: *Inventory and assess existing classified road crossings in subwatersheds that are occupied or contain critical habitat for TEPC species. Assess crossings to determine if they provide for fish passage, 100-year flood flow, and bedload and debris transport. Incorporate the results into the biennial updates of the Watershed and Aquatic Recovery Strategy (WARS) database. 2003 road crossing surveys:*

¹ Generally, maintenance level 1 and 2 roads are local roads that feed larger roads. Level 3, 4, and 5 roads are the main arterial and collector road system.

² Deferred Maintenance is maintenance not performed when it should have been or when scheduled, and which therefore was delayed to the future. Deferred maintenance needs may be either critical or non-critical.

In fiscal year 2004, the Payette obtained information on 347 crossings, of which 186 sites were in subwatersheds occupied by, or containing critical habitat for, TEPC (threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate) species. All but 53 were entered into a database that will be used to do the biennial update of the WARS database.

Objective FROB11: *In the Forest's annual program of work, prioritize and schedule improvements to existing culverts, bridges, and other stream crossings to accommodate fish passage, 100-year flood flow, and bedload and debris transport. Include accomplishments in the biennial update of the Watershed and Aquatic Recovery Strategy (WARS) database.*

In fiscal year 2004, replacement of two road bridges began on the Payette National Forest:

The Little Weiser Bridge project replaced a 40 foot long, 40 year old timber bridge with a new 50 foot concrete structure. The additional structure length was added to ensure the bridge does not constrict bankful flow of the Little Weiser River to provide lower velocities at higher flows, aiding fish passage.

The Grouse Creek Bridge project began in 2004 and is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2005.

Objective FROB12: *During fine scale analyses in areas where roads and facilities are identified as a potential concern or problem contributing to degradation of water quality, aquatic species or occupied sensitive or watch plant habitat, evaluate and document where the contributing facilities are and prioritize opportunities to mitigate effects.*

Accomplishments: In 2001 the Burgdorf RAP identified specific roads that were contributing to the degradation of water quality in habitat for Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. Opportunities were prioritized and deferred road maintenance designed to mitigate the effects to these listed species was implemented on Grouse Creek- Marshall Road # 50325, Cottontail Point Road #50331, and Chimney Rock Road #50335. The deferred maintenance activities occurred during the 2002, 2003, and 2004 field seasons. Some additional work is scheduled in 2005 to complete the project.

Objective REOB18: *Initiate a process of phased, site-specific travel management planning as soon as practicable. Prioritize planning based on areas where the most significant user conflicts and resource concerns are occurring. Identify and address inconsistent access management of roads, trails, and areas across Forest, Ranger District, and interagency boundaries.*

Accomplishment: In fiscal year 2004, the Payette initiated a travel planning process. In early October, it developed and released to the public a Proposed Action to revise its Travel Plan. The Forest accepted public comments on the Proposed Action until January 7, 2005. The Forest Supervisor extended the original 60-day comment period for public scoping another 30 days at the request of interested citizens. Public meetings on the Proposed Action were held in Council, Weiser, Riggins, New Meadows, and McCall. The proposed action is the initial step in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis process leading to a revised Travel Plan. During the winter, Forest resource specialists analyzed public scoping comments to identify issues and alternatives and the effects of the alternatives. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is scheduled for release for public comment during the fall of 2005. Public meetings will be held during this time. The final EIS and Record of Decision on the Travel Plan are scheduled for release in winter 2006. The decision will identify an approved transportation system and set restrictions on travel between roads.

Tribal Consultation

Objective TROB01: *Meet annually with designated tribal representatives to coordinate tribal uses of National Forest System lands as provided for through existing tribal rights with the U.S. Government.*

Accomplishment: Three federally recognized American Indian Tribes have expressed interest in land and resource management activities on the Payette National Forest:

- Nez Perce Tribe
- Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall
- Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley

Nez Perce Tribe. Formal and informal annual meetings have been taking place with the Nez Perce Tribe since 1986. In June 2004, Payette staff met with the Tribal Executive Committee in Lapwai, Idaho, to discuss, in part, the need to establish a mutual agreed to consultation process protocol that would result in effective coordination of Tribal uses on the Payette, as well as the identification and understanding of Tribal rights and interests that may be affected by proposed activities on the Payette. An additional meeting with the Executive Committee took place in October 2004.

Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. Formal and informal meetings have taken place with government representatives of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley since 1998. In 2003, the Payette Forest Supervisor invited the Tribes to do direct government-to-government consultation. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes opted to involve a non-Indian mediator in their consultation process. Wings and Roots Campfire Talks is the protocol for doing government-to government formal consultation with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. In 2004, the Payette did not have a formal agreement with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes on consultation through Wings and Roots. The Tribes were informed by letter on Payette Federal actions. The Wings and Roots program was formally initiated on March 24, 2005 with the first formal meeting of Wings and Roots and the Forest.

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. Government-to-government consultation has taken place with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall since 1998. The Payette does not have a formal agreement on the consultation process with these Tribes. However, the Tribes continue to be informed about Payette proposed actions by letters addressed to the Chairman and resource staff. Consultation did occur for Forest Plan Revision through 2003.

2.1.2 Evaluation of Costs

This section evaluates the documentation of costs of carrying out the planned management prescriptions as compared with the costs estimated in the Forest Plan, as required by Forest Plan Table IV-1, p. IV-5.

As described in Chapter IV of the Forest Plan, carrying out the intent of the Forest Plan depends on the funding allocated by Congress. During the implementation period of the former Forest Plan (1988-2003), funding was consistently lower than projections for most program areas. Therefore, the 1988 Forest Plan was implemented more slowly than projected. Table 5 compares the actual allocation for fiscal year 2004 with a level predicted based on the 2003 Forest Plan, by program area (fund type).

To predict a more realistic rate of implementation, the budget level used to develop the 2003 Forest Plan for all programs, except timber management and hazardous fuels, was based on average actual budget allocations from 2001 to 2003. Timber management and hazardous fuels reduction were based on a 10 percent increase over average service level constraints from the Forest Service Budget Formulation and Execution System (BFES). Actual allocations by fund code and program emphasis will vary on an annual basis based on Forest priorities for a given year, as well as on the will of Congress. Table 5 compares the

predicted Forest Plan budget level by program area based on average allocations and BFES, with the actual allocation for fiscal years 2004.

Table 5. Predicted Versus Actual Forest Budget Levels

Fund Code	Fund Description	Predicted Forest Plan Budget Level	FY 2004 Actual Allocation	Percent Difference
BDBD	Brush Disposal	\$79,510	\$109,262	+27%
CMFC/CMII	Facility Construction and	\$632,873	\$612,771	-3%
CMRD	Road Construction and Maintenance	\$1,370,254	\$1,270,929	-7%
CMTL	Trail Construction and Maintenance	\$301,219	\$273,269	-9%
CWKV	COOP Work, KV	\$1,091,546	\$811,518	-26%
NFIM	Inventory and Monitoring	\$442,160	\$460,183	+4%
NFLM	Land and Ownership Management	\$308,546	\$267,594	-13%
NFMG	Minerals and Geology	\$307,785	\$297,727	-3%
NFPN	Land Management Planning	\$502,769	\$185,179	-63%
NFRG	Grazing Management	\$304,207	\$434,646	+30%
NFRW	Recreation/HR/Wilderness	\$733,522	\$741,141	+1%
NFTM	Timber Management	\$2,522,000	\$1,858,269	-26%
NFVW	Vegetation and Water	\$873,338	\$905,771	+4%
NFWF	Wildlife and Fisheries Management	\$555,627	\$455,816	-18%
RBRB	Range Betterment	\$33,812	\$31,430	-7%
RTRT	Reforestation Trust Fund	\$293,666	\$321,067	+9%
SSSS	Salvage Sale	\$2,743,302	\$1,749,194	-36%
WFHF	Hazardous Fuels	\$1,427,000	\$1,249,727	-12%
WFPR	Fire Preparedness	\$7,322,256	\$6,279,224	-14%
	Total	\$21,845,392	\$18,314,717	-16%

(Note: Carryover dollars are not included. These are un-obligated funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year that may be carried over to the next fiscal year. These funds tend to be highly variable.)

Substantial reductions from predicted allocations to actual were seen in five areas: Brush Disposal, Coop Work KV, Land Management Planning, Timber Management, and Salvage Sale program areas. Only Grazing Management experienced a substantial increase. The main reasons are:

- Forest trust accounts (BDBD, CWKV, SSSS) fluctuate due to collection rate and work available to be accomplished in any given year.
- During Forest Plan revision, the Forest received a Regional earmark of Land Management Planning funds at a level necessary for revising the plan. Now that the revision process has been completed, the Forest is no longer receiving the Regional earmark and is being funded at a considerably lower maintenance level.
- Grazing Management received increased funding emphasis to meet the Rescission Act schedule for NEPA compliance and monitoring of allotments to ensure compliance with the Forest Plan standards and guidelines and with restrictions developed through regulatory agency consultation.
- Timber Management is lower than predicted to meet other emphasis items above as well as the transition towards Healthy Forest Initiative and National Fire Plan fuels reduction treatments.

2.1.3 Evaluation of Population Trends

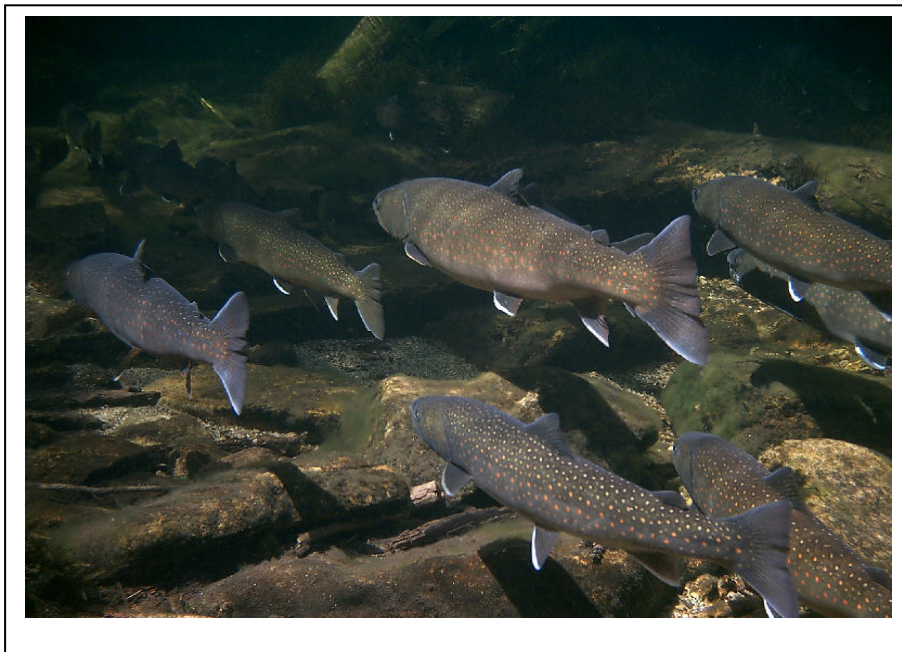
This section evaluates the population trends of the management indicator species required to be monitored and relationships to habitat changes required to be determined, as required by Forest Plan Table IV-1, on p. IV-6).

Table 6 shows the management indicator species (MIS) selected for the 2003 Forest Plan. The primary reason a given MIS is selected is because its population is believed to indicate the effects of management activities. Other factors also contribute to the choice (36 CFR 219.19(a)(1)).

Table 6. Management Indicator Species for the Payette National Forest, 2003 Forest Plan

Type	Common Name	Habitat	Management Concerns
Bird Species	Pileated Woodpecker	PVGs 2 through 9	Sufficient large trees, snags, and down logs
	White-headed Woodpecker*	PVGs 1, 2, 3, 5	Sufficient snags, and large trees with low crown density
Fish Species	Bull Trout	Perennial streams	Sediment in spawning and rearing areas, water temperature, habitat connectivity

* MIS for Management Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 10 only.



Bull trout in Secesh River tributary

2.1.3.1 Population Trend Monitoring for Bull Trout

Background. Bull trout was selected as the aquatic MIS for the Forest Plan in the Final EIS (Appendix F). With the exception of the North Fork Payette River, bull trout would be monitored in all subbasins as an MIS species. A viability analysis was developed during Forest Plan revision and used in the FEIS and in consultation on bull trout with the regulatory agencies--the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and NOAA Fisheries. Viability outcomes within 15 and 50 years by subbasins and recovery units were described (FEIS pp. 3-227 to 3-330).

Data is being compiled from the 2004 field season into a report. The report is scheduled for completion as a draft during 2005. The approach taken on the Payette is monitoring the spatial patterns of occurrence

(distribution) for bull trout through time. The approach derives from the scientific literature for the area. Based upon the Forest's analytical approach, the following metrics for determining trend will be used:

1. The proportion of habitat *patches* that bull trout occupy within subbasins across time where fragmentation is a dominant process (two subbasins). (In the case of bull trout, a patch is a network of cold water.)
2. The spatial pattern of occupied bull trout patches within each subbasin across time for the subbasins identified.
3. Indices of distribution within individual subbasins. This metric is useful for developing trend relationships.

The Payette will use several indicators to evaluate trends in bull trout populations. Those indicators or indices include the number of areas with bull trout, the number of life stages of bull trout present, the degree that bull trout populations are fragmented, anthropogenic sources of fragmentation (roads), the extent of threat by brook trout, the number of potential food sources, and anadromous salmonids. This approach allows for an evaluation of bull trout population trends at the scale of the National Forest, although it does not evaluate the annual trend of bull trout in any single stream.

Accomplishments: In fiscal year 2004, the Payette completed MIS protocol surveys in five patches. Two patches were in cooperation with Idaho Power. Idaho Fish and Game provided data for four subbasins, and the Nez Perce Tribe provided data for one subbasin. Bull trout were found in all eight subbasins on the Forest. The Payette will continue this collection in future years. A preliminary assessment of trend indicators should be completed in 2005.

2.1.3.2 Population Trend Monitoring for Pileated and Whiteheaded Woodpeckers

Background. The Payette National Forest MIS monitoring strategy provides a picture of bird distributions and an estimate of the overall population trend for two management indicator species: the pileated woodpecker, and the white-headed woodpecker. In addition, the strategy provides the groundwork for using the survey points to examine relationships between MIS presence, vegetative cover, and management actions across the landscape.

As the Payette restores vegetative conditions and habitat towards the historic range of variability, a decrease is expected in suitable habitat for dense-forest species such as the pileated woodpecker. Populations would begin to reflect a distribution reflecting historic occupancy on the Forest. On the other hand, species such as the white-headed woodpecker would be expected to increase gradually as dry forest habitats are restored and their structural components and species composition shift. Specifically, tree diameters would increase, and large standing dead wood would increase. Both the ICBEMP Reports (Interior Columbia River Basin Ecosystem Management Plan) and the 2003 Forest Plan identify the need to restore habitats that are no longer in the historic range of variability. The MIS strategy provides a means to measure progress towards this goal using population trends and correlating those trends with the changes in the species' habitat.

Accomplishment: Monitoring began in the spring of 2003 for white-headed woodpecker and in the spring of 2004 for pileated woodpecker. Five hundred points are monitored, across habitat suitable for these two species. Points were set up to geographically stratify the monitoring across the Forest while making sure a minimum of 250 points occurred across the range of each species. The surveys reflect the historical range for each species. The historical range for the white-headed woodpecker includes the west

side of the Forest, while the pileated historic range is Forest-wide. Table 7 summarizes the early results of the whiteheaded woodpecker surveys, while Table 9 summarizes the pileated woodpecker surveys.

Table 7. Payette National Forest White-Headed Woodpecker Survey Results

Year	Number of Points Monitored	Number of Sightings
2003	250	3
2004	250	0

Table 8. Payette National Forest Pileated Woodpecker Survey Results

Year	Number of Points Monitored	Number of Sightings
2003	250	3
2004	210	14

(Note: Two pileated woodpecker transects not accessible due to snow and flooding, but will be relocated for 2005.)

Additional data collected in the field includes general measures of vegetation structure and site characteristics such as slope and aspect. Changes to the habitat information from prior year were recorded and evaluated; for example, fire, timber harvest, insects and disease, or windthrow.

2.1.4 Evaluation of Watershed Restoration

This section evaluates the accomplishment of restoration objectives in the ACS (Aquatic Conservation Strategy) Priority Subwatersheds.

In fiscal year 2004, the rehabilitation of the Meadow Creek channel was initiated in the Upper East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River near Stibnite. In the Upper Secesh River, rehabilitation of the Grouse Creek Road and Marshall Mountain Road (Forest Road 50325) continued from 2002. In Boulder Creek of the Little Salmon River, 10 miles of long term road closure was conducted in accordance with the Brush Mountain Timber Sale. In the Brown Creek portion of Hard and Hazard Creeks, 13 miles of road received long term closures. In Anderson Creek in the Little Weiser River, more than 10 miles of road were obliterated and 84 trees were installed as large woody debris in bull trout habitat. In Indian Creek, tributary to the Snake River, bull trout were moved upstream of a passage barrier to offset the effects of a high intensity storm during 2003.

Table 9 summarizes these accomplishments and identifies the specific Plan objectives met by each.

Table 9. Accomplishments in ACS Priority Watersheds

ACS Priority Subwatershed	Forest Plan Objective Addressed	Work Completed
Upper East Fork of the South Fork Salmon River	SWG002, SWG010, SWG013	Meadow Creek Stream Restoration
Upper Secesh River	SWG001, SWOB18	Grouse Creek Road; Marshall Mountain Road (FS Road 50325)
Boulder Creek	SWG001, SWOB18	10 miles long-term road closure
Brown Creek	SWG001, SWOB18	13 miles long-term road closure
Anderson Creek	SWG014	84 trees installed in channel
Indian Creek	SWOB12, SWOB13	Bull trout moved around passage barrier

The ACS is a long-term strategy to restore and maintain the ecological health of watersheds and aquatic ecosystems contained within National Forest System lands. It is a refinement and furtherance of

approaches outlined in the ICBEMP Implementation Strategy and the USFWS and NMFS 1998 Biological Opinions. It provides direction to maintain and restore characteristics of healthy, functioning watersheds, riparian areas, and associated fish habitats.

There are eight ACS components. Any of these components has the potential to influence any of the factors of decline or the recovery/restoration strategy.

1. Goals to Maintain and Restore SWRA (Soil, Water, Riparian, Aquatic) Resources
2. Watershed Condition Indicators for SWRA Resources
3. Delineation of Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs)
4. Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines for Management of SWRA Resources, including RCAs
5. Determination of Priority Subwatersheds within Subbasins
6. Multi-Scale Analyses of Subbasins and Subwatersheds
7. Determination of the Appropriate Type of Subwatershed Restoration and Prioritization
8. Monitoring and Adaptive Management Provisions

The ACS incorporates the monitoring goals identified in the ICBEMP Implementation Strategy and associated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

2.1.5 Evaluation of Compliance with Consultation Requirements

This section evaluates compliance of projects with terms and conditions or reasonable and prudent measures that resulted from consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries as provided in Section 7(a) of the Endangered Species Act.

The Biological Opinion (BO) on the Forest Plan from NOAA dated June 9, 2003 contains a number of terms and conditions (T&C) starting on page 89. Project implementation needs to be in compliance with those terms and conditions.

Fisheries Consultation Requirements

In the table below, the left hand column briefly summarizes the specific term and condition from the BO, and the right-hand column summarizes how the Forest met or made progress toward that term and condition in 2004.

Table 10. Compliance with Terms and Conditions for Reasonable & Prudent Measures Required by NOAA Fisheries

Terms and Conditions	Compliance in 2004
# 1 – To implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure #1, clarification of local sideboards. the Forest Service shall:	
<i>A. RCAs – Assess effectiveness of floodprone widths</i>	RCA delineation is occurring as part of project development and riparian monitoring. Project development identifies local landslide hazards.
<i>B. Landslide Prone – Stratify by hazard class</i>	The level one interagency consultation team (level 1 team) agreed to a system of symbols to identify different classifications of effect during matrix development for projects. (The matrix is a requirement of Appendix B of the Forest Plan, to be filled out for each planned project.)
<i>C. Definitions – Identify change to WCIs and potential effects to WCIs over 3 temporal scales</i>	Changes to WCIs and effects over temporary, short-term, and long-term timescales are evaluated as part of project development. There were three consultations completed with NOAA Fisheries in 2004 where changes or adjustments were made to WCIs.

Terms and Conditions	Compliance in 2004
<i>D. Fire Management – Develop operational resource guidelines prior to 2004 season</i>	For fire, also see TEOB23 above. In fiscal year 2004, no variances from guidelines were identified. No consultations occurred in which limitations on the Forest Service authority needed clarification.
# 2 – To Implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure #2, maintain link between LRMP and Broad-scale restoration/recovery strategies, the Forest Service shall:	
<i>A. IIT – Provide oversight and accountability body linking to IIT</i>	In fiscal year 2004, coordination with the Interagency Implementation Team (IIT) field crews occurred multiple times.
<i>B. In Upper Salmon, SF SR, and Little Salmon - Framework must be in place to implement “likely to adversely affect” actions</i>	Adverse effects were determined in 2004 for the Marble Fire, Monumental Creek road repair, Meadow Creek stream channel relocation, and Nick Fire retardant drop. In addition, Framework has not been completed. However, the baseline was updated for the section 7 watershed BAs in order to be consistent with the development of the Framework document.
# 3 – To Implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure #3, Upper Salmon and South Fork Salmon direction, the Forest Service shall:	
<i>A. Do not increase ECA above 15% in watersheds with ESA-listed anadromous fishes.</i>	In fiscal year 2004, no ECA increases were planned over 15%.
<i>B. In the South Fork Salmon River (SF SR):</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Revise the default WCIs to values appropriate for the Subbasin</i> <i>2. Continue sampling, analysis, and annual reporting of sediment levels.</i> <i>3. Projects must meet criteria if even a negligible likelihood to adversely effect</i> 	<p>A draft white paper to revise sediment WCIs in the South Fork Salmon River was drafted in 2004 by the fisheries staff and submitted January 2005. The final paper was completed in July 2005 and sent to NMFS.</p> <p>Sampling occurred in 2004. Data were compiled and a statistical summary was completed. No reporting was made.</p> <p>A report of annual sediment monitoring was completed in 2004. All actions taken through consultation succeeded in meeting analysis standards for sediment in 2003 and 2004; actions at Meadow Creek are being monitored to assure that mitigation measures are effective.</p>

Wildlife Consultation Requirements

Bald Eagle

Term and Condition 1. *Identify breeding and non-breeding eagle habitat. Locate and describe all existing nest sites, communal winter roosts, foraging areas, perching areas, and areas used during migration.*

Compliance. This is an ongoing action done in cooperation with the State of Idaho and Fish and Wildlife Service in conjunction with the Western Idaho Bald Eagle Working Group.

Term and Condition 2. *Secure specific eagle habitat through lease, trade, easement, cooperative agreements or purchase. Establish reserves and management areas where appropriate and necessary.*

Compliance. No opportunities occurred in this regard in 2004.

Term and Condition 3. *Cooperate with others to maintain and improve quantity, quality, and availability of food supplies for bald eagles.*

Compliance. Ongoing discussions occurred in 2004.

Term and Condition 4. *Maintain and enhance wetland areas for waterfowl production.*

Compliance. Ongoing project work at Lost Valley Reservoir.

Term and Condition 5. *Maintain and develop nesting and roosting habitat for future use by bald eagles.*

Compliance. Ongoing project work continued at Lost Valley Reservoir.

Term and Condition 6. *Preserve snags in bald eagle use areas, or create snags where suitable perch trees are not available.*

Compliance. Ongoing project work continued at Lost Valley Reservoir.

Term and Condition 7. *Prohibit removal of known eagle nest trees, perch trees, and winter roost trees.*

Compliance. Ongoing project work continued at Lost Valley Reservoir.

Term and Condition 8. *Limit human disturbance at bald eagle use areas by establishing buffer zones around nest sites; exclude logging, construction, habitat improvement, and other activities during critical periods of bald eagle use. Prohibit building construction near key bald eagle nesting and wintering habitats and limit vehicle traffic at key areas during periods of bald eagle use.*

Compliance. Ongoing project work continued at Lost Valley Reservoir.

Term and Condition 9. *Inventory, monitor, and study bald eagle habitat and populations to obtain adequate knowledge for developing nest management plans and to evaluate effectiveness of management programs.*

Compliance. Ongoing project work continued at Lost Valley Reservoir.

Canada Lynx

Term and Condition 1. *Anticipate and resolve growing resource conflicts with recreation use.*

Compliance. The Forest Travel Plan EIS will assess potential effects of over-snow recreation on lynx.

Term and Condition 2. *Seek opportunities to enhance public awareness of the status of ESA listed wildlife.*

Compliance. In 2004 there were presentations by District and SO staff to Forest Service employees and to the public, handouts on information related to ESA, and signing in the field to direct users to avoid impacts to species and habitat.

Term and Condition 3. *Continue to map and assess the extent of lynx, denning, forage, and dispersed habitats.*

Compliance. In 2004 the Forest continued to assess lynx denning, foraging, and dispersal habitat during projects in LAU (Lynx Analysis Units) within potential suitable habitat as described under subparts A and C. Subparts B, D, E, F, G, and H are lower priority. It is assumed that lynx are extremely rare and not reproducing on the Forest.

Term and Condition 4. *Continue the monitoring and surveying efforts to improve the information base related to lynx occurrences.*

Compliance. Not completed due to low priority; see Term and Condition 3 above.

Term and Condition 5. *Cooperate with others to improve research efforts to better understand the potential for human activities to affect lynx.*

Compliance. The Payette is cooperating at a regional level with State and Federal agencies.

Term and Condition 6. *Cooperate with others to evaluate habitat value and relationships for vegetation communities not typically considered to be important lynx habitat, including aspen and shrub-steppe.*

Compliance. Not completed due to low priority; see Term and Condition 3 above. These types of vegetation communities are uncommon on the Payette and not considered a key factor in lynx presence on the Forest.

Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel

Term and Condition 1. *Provide additional physical protection of northern Idaho ground squirrels (NIDGS) from mortality or injury caused by humans using roads or trails in potentially suitable habitats. This protection could be provided by (but not limited to) erecting signs, road closures, off-road vehicle restrictions, and other measures to limit human disturbance to the species and their habitat.*

Compliance. The Payette closed Slaughter Gulch Campground to reduce human impacts to squirrels. It also closed and signed roads in the Lost Valley area.

Term and Condition 2. *In cooperation with the Service, prepare an outreach plan that allows the public to be updated on information on the conservation and biology of NIDGS. Inform the public of current habitat restoration and monitoring efforts on Forest lands.*

Compliance. The Forest is cooperating with Idaho Department of Fish and Game's NIDGS coordinator.

Term and Condition 3. *Cooperate with others to secure protection of existing habitat from threats on adjacent private lands.*

Compliance. The Forest is cooperating with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which works directly with public and private landowners.

Term and Condition 4. *Working with the Technical Working Group, cooperate in establishing and maintaining a database that tracks all known population numbers and documents the geographic extent of populations using a GIS. Past and present narrative data for the northern Idaho ground squirrel should be collected and incorporated into a system that allows a crosswalk of narrative data with the GIS system data. These records and GIS habitat maps should be updated regularly.*

Compliance. Work is ongoing in the Technical Working Group.

Term and Condition 5. *To provide additional understanding of important characteristics of the northern Idaho ground squirrel habitat, work with the Service and others to formulate a multivariate analysis of existing populations and their habitats. Environmental correlates of areas now occupied by the species should be analyzed statistically. All types of land use should be evaluated including mining, grazing, timber management, burning, cultivation, private land use and developments, highway construction, recreational and utility uses.*

Compliance. Work is ongoing.

Term and Condition 6. *Conduct a historical review of known pesticide applications within suitable northern Idaho ground squirrel habitat on federal lands and adjacent private lands. Where possible, identify the initiating agency, amount of application, type of product, and target species.*

Compliance. No work occurred in 2004.

Term and Condition 7. *Assist the Technical Working Group in evaluating population models for the species and re-affirm the accuracy of parameters in terms of population biology, habitat requirements, and other limiting factors. Update and refine existing information on population distribution, exchange rates between metapopulations, and genetic studies.*

Compliance. The Forest is cooperating with the Technical Work Group on a modeling effort.

Term and Condition 8. *Assist others in establishing a long-term contingency plan to allow management procedures if the northern Idaho ground squirrel population should reach critically low numbers or other special management needs are identified.*

Compliance. The Forest is working with others on a long-term contingency plan.

Term and Condition 9. *Continue existing efforts to locate additional natural population of northern Idaho ground squirrels within the Probable Historical Distribution of the species. Document the systematic search methods so all surveys are using similar techniques.*

Compliance. The Forest is working with the Technical Work Group on locating additional populations.

Term and Condition 10. *Assist in the development of management plans for each of the identified metapopulations of the northern Idaho ground squirrel.*

Compliance. The Forest is working with Technical Work Group on developing management plans.

Grey Wolf

The Grey wolf does not have any conservation recommendations because any wolves on the Payette are part of a non-essential experimental population.

2.2 Four Annual Monitoring Elements From Table IV-2

This section evaluates the four Monitoring Elements in Table IV-2 of the Forest Plan that need to be reported annually.

As described in Chapter IV of the Forest Plan, monitoring elements were designed around monitoring questions that need to be answered about Forest Plan implementation. These questions are key to determining if implementation is moving toward the desired conditions in the Forest Plan. This summarizes the findings.

Safety of Administrative Facilities

Monitoring Question: *Are administrative sites safe and accessible for visitors and employees including drinking water sources?*

Work Completed and Findings: Building inspections were performed on 89 recreation and administrative sites by the Facilities Engineering Technician. Records are maintained in the Facilities Engineering files. Inspections look for maintenance items, overall condition of the building, building information for INFRA, building code compliance, plumbing and mechanical code compliance, fire code compliance, some life safety code compliance, some OSHA code compliance, some environmental compliance, and internal Health and Safety code compliance.

In fiscal year 2004, 235 administrative sites were listed as not accessible in the INFRA database. Thirty-five were listed as accessible, and three were partially accessible.

The drinking water systems for all 13 sites opened in 2004 were tested monthly. During the months open, the samples collected determined that each of these systems met the Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

Sanitary surveys were performed on approximately 20 percent of the recreation and administrative sites, primarily those that were open in 2004. Sanitary surveys are required every five years at a minimum to assess the operational quality, function, and maintenance of supporting systems.

Safety of Developed Recreation Sites

Monitoring Question: *Are developed recreation sites free of high-risk conditions? Do water systems meet Federal, State, and local requirements?*

Work Completed and Findings: All Forest developed recreation sites (campgrounds, picnic areas, etc.) were inspected in 2004 by district personnel in conjunction with opening for the summer season. Unsanitary, hazardous, or unsafe conditions were mitigated at this time. Additionally, in 2004 20 percent of the developed recreation sites listed in INFRA were inspected for deferred maintenance.

The drinking water systems for 19 recreational facilities plus two systems that are both recreation and administrative were open for use in 2004. Monthly samples collected from these water systems determined that all sites met the Safe Drinking Water Act standards. In 2004, all developed recreation water systems met all standards established under this act and agency regulations. Table 11 summarizes the recreation facility surveys.

Table 11. Administrative and Recreation Sites Surveyed

Type of Site	Total Assets	Surveyed FY00 thru FY03	Surveyed FY04	Surveyed FY00 thru FY04	% Surveyed FY00 thru FY04
Water Systems	36	24	12	36	100
Wastewater Systems	23	19	4	23	100
Buildings	387	298	89	387	100
Dams	10	9	0	9	90
Trail Bridges	48	12	17	29	60

Source: WO INFRA Report: 2004 Status of Meeting Maintenance Protocols as of 09/30/2004

Protection of Historic Properties

Monitoring Question: *Are historic properties being affected by project activities?*

Work Completed and Findings: In fiscal year 2004, seven Payette (internal) incidents were discovered in non-compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), section 106. Two public (external) incidents were discovered as antiquities were removed from the Forest in violation of the NHPA Regulations (36 CFR 261). The seven Payette internal incidents took place in the Krassel Ranger District portion of the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. Most of these violations occurred before 2004, but were discovered, evaluated, and responded to during 2004.

- One incident occurred where no Section 106 reviews were completed for the re-alignment and construction of a new trail. The trail project was adjacent to a known American Indian site. The trail was completed before the site was later evaluated. The trail work has been suspended since 2003, and is still pending SHPO review and concurrence.
- One trail re-alignment project was completed in 2003 prior to providing the State Historic Preservation Office the opportunity to comment on the Section 106 review. One historic property was identified in 2004 adjacent to this trail. No SHPO clearance was obtained.
- One Federal action pertained to the unauthorized clean-up and removal of historic materials from a known historic property after a wildfire. No Section 106 review was conducted.
- One Federal action pertained to cleaning up and removal of historic materials from a previously undocumented site. The objects were later returned to the site. The Forest Archaeologist wrote a white paper giving guidance to employees on differentiating between cultural resources and trash.
- Two Federal actions involved discovering the removal in 2004 of buildings, furnishings, and structures from one eligible and one listed National Register of Historic Places property. Buildings and structures were removed, and no Section 106 reviews were conducted. The damage to the listed site was later repaired after Section 106 review was conducted on the repairs.
- There were two public violations of 36 CFR 261.9(b) and (g). One resulted in a warning to the offenders for unauthorized removal of historic artifacts, and the Forest Archaeologist educated the individuals involved. The second was a public violation of 36 CFR 261.9(b) and (g). A law enforcement investigation was conducted, artifacts were recovered, and the case was closed.

As a remedy to the above incidents, the Forest Archaeologist in 2004 issued two guidance documents on preserving historic buildings in wilderness; and the Krassel District and Supervisor's Office in August 2005 committed to annual coordination meetings in the winter to plan upcoming field season reviews.

Indicator: *Assess the effects of project implementation on selected projects for at least 5% of the projects for which cultural resource management approval had been recommended during the previous year.*

Work Completed and Findings: Outside of the wilderness, four federal actions were monitored. They were the Hall Fire Timber Salvage Sale, the Parks-Eiguren Prescribed Burn, the Goose Creek Campground Reconstruction, and the Hazard Lake Campground Reconstruction. All four projects were determined to be consistent with project design requirements and with NHPA Section 106 requirements.

Watershed Restoration and Conservation Activities

Monitoring Question: *Have restoration and conservation activities been focused in priority watersheds identified by the WARS process?*

Work Completed and Findings: In fiscal year 2004, watershed restoration totaled 70.4 acres of road obliteration using watershed funds, and 3.8 miles of road obliteration using roads funds. A total of 42 percent of these activities were conducted in low priority WARS watersheds, 58 percent in moderate priority watersheds, and none in high priority watersheds. These were NEPA projects developed under the old Forest Plan. Because of the lead-time required for new projects, the switch to priority watersheds called for in the new Forest Plan is not evident yet. Therefore, the activities were in low and moderate ACS priority watersheds, and active low and moderate WARS strategy and priority. In 2004, restoration activities were emphasized in ACS priority watersheds, and high and moderate WARS priorities. Restoration activities, other than those specified for ACS Priority Watersheds discussed earlier (Section 2.1, Question 5), are listed in Table 12. All of these projects were consistent with Forestwide Objective SWOB18, which calls for reduction of road-related impacts using the WARS system for prioritization.

Table 12. Watershed and Road Restoration Completed in ACS Priority and Other Subwatersheds

Subwatershed	HUC Code (Old)	Management Area Objectvs Met?	Work Accomplished	WARS Restoration Strategy, Priority	ACS Priority Sub-Watershed?
Fall Creek	170501241305	0318, 0319, 0322, 0323	16.8 acres road obliteration	Active, Low	No
Upper Middle Fork Weiser River	170501241304	0318, 0319, 0322, 0323	12.3 acres road obliteration, 1.5 miles road decommission	Active, Low	No
Anderson Creek	170501241409	0318, 0319, 0322, 0323	25.3 acres road obliteration	Active, Moderate	Yes
Upper Little Weiser River	170501241408	0318, 0319, 0322, 0323	7.2 acres road obliteration	Active, Moderate	Yes
Upper Mud Creek	170602100505	0518, 0519	8.1 acres road obliteration, 2.1 miles road decommission	Active, Moderate	No
Lowr Goose Ck	1706021005401	0626	0.0 acres	Active, Moderate	No
U/M/L Mann Creek	170501240101-3	0318, 0319, 0322, 0323	0.4 road obliteration, 1.2 miles road decommission	Active, Low	No

2.3 Project Monitoring

This section evaluates selected project monitoring conducted in fiscal year 2004 that contributes to meeting Forest Plan monitoring requirements.

Project-level monitoring is designed to evaluate the implementation and the effectiveness of Forest Plan direction at the ground level. It focuses on achievement of resource objectives, proper use and effectiveness of management practices, impacts on site-specific resources of concern, and effects on resource baseline conditions. This monitoring therefore will allow updating of baselines when they change.



Hall Fire Salvage Monitoring Review, Sept. 2004

As part of the monitoring efforts, project level monitoring is scheduled each year on most Districts on the Payette. Project monitoring scheduled for completion in the 2004 field season was designed to respond to the five **Required Monitoring Questions for All Projects** listed below (numbered 1 through 5), as well as some of the **Optional Monitoring Questions to Be Addressed if Applicable** listed (numbered 6 through 18).

Required Questions for All Projects

1. How well did the project meet its objectives?
2. Were the effects to other resources within the expected range?
3. Were the project design and mitigation effective?
4. Are actions proposed and associated effects being adequately disclosed in NEPA documents?
5. Have prescriptions, projects, and activities been implemented as designed and in compliance with the Forest Plan? Are they moving towards desired conditions as described in the Forest Plan?

Optional Questions To Be Addressed If Applicable

6. Are management activities changing the ROS settings?
7. Are Forest management activities adequately designed (including delineation of RCA's) to maintain or improve riparian functions and ecological processes important to furthering Forest Plan goals and objectives?
8. Are management actions providing for or moving toward the extent of vegetation components necessary to meet the needs of MIS and TEPC species?

9. Are management actions and Forest Plan direction effectively maintaining or restoring long-term soil productivity?
10. Are snags and coarse woody debris at, or moving toward, desired conditions as described in Appendix A of the Forest Plan?
11. Have restoration and conservation activities been focused in priority watersheds identified by the WARS process?
12. Are management actions and Forest Plan direction effectively maintaining WCIs when currently in the range of desired conditions, and restoring WCIs when outside the range of desired conditions over multiple spatial scales?
13. Are consulting agencies part of the process, and are concerns being raised about implementation of the Forest Plan?
14. Are Forest management actions being designed and implemented to meet Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs)?
15. Are historic properties being affected by project activities?
16. Are Forest management actions affecting known sensitive species or watch species habitats at the project level?
17. Are Forest management strategies effective in preventing, controlling, or eradicating targeted populations of noxious weeds?
18. Are established utilization levels (livestock) providing for desired ground cover, soil stability, plant vigor, and composition?

The Payette Interdisciplinary Team visited three projects during the 2004 field season specifically for Forest Plan monitoring purposes:

Table 13. Projects Monitored for Forest Plan Monitoring and Evaluation

Project Name	Project Type	Ranger District	Date
Hazard Creek Campground Reconstruction	Recreation	New Meadows	September 16, 2004
Hall Fire Salvage	Vegetation	Council	September 17, 2004
Parks-Eiguren Prescribed Burn	Fuels	Krassel	October 12, 2004

In summary, the evaluation of the results of the monitoring visits provided these conclusions.

Hall Fire Salvage

1. *How well did the project meet its objectives?* The purpose of the project was to salvage 250 acres of dead, severely damaged, and dying trees before they lost their economic value. The project met this objective.
2. *Were the effects to other resources within the expected range?* The snags and down woody material were less than expected to best meet the Forest Plan guidelines addressed in Appendix A. As evidenced by the stumps and residual landing material, large diameter material was available after the burn. Distribution of residual material post-salvage was variable, with some areas lacking large down material.

3. *Was the project design and mitigation effective?* Yes, the Hall Fire burned area emergency rehabilitation (BAER) implementation was completed to high quality standards in a timely manner. In addition, the physical improvements of the BAER rehabilitation were protected during subsequent timber salvage operations. Perennial and intermittent stream courses were buffered and protected. Skid trails were rehabilitated to a high quality standard. The over-snow yarding appeared to be highly effective in reducing adverse effects on soil and water resources.

4. *Are actions proposed and associated effects being adequately disclosed in NEPA documents?* Yes, the action fits in a categorical exclusion (section 31.12, category 13: Salvage of Dead and/or Dying Trees Not to Exceed 250 acres, Requiring No More Than ½ Mile Temporary Road), and is documented in the District's decision memo (DM). The proposed action was adequately described in the DM, although its purpose and need was not described. The project was analyzed through a Categorical Exclusion, which does not require documentation of the environmental effects. However, the DM does explain why there are no extraordinary circumstances affected by the project that may lead to significant effects. Also, the District did summarize the effects for key resources in the DM, thus improving information disclosure for the public and decision-maker.

5. *Have prescriptions, projects, and activities been implemented as designed and in compliance with the Forest Plan?* First, there appears to be an inconsistency between the NEPA project requirement of "no new or temporary road," the Soil and Water Conservation Practice of rehabilitating temporary roads, and the timber sale map showing three temporary roads. The field review determined that Temporary Road 11 still existed and had not been obliterated. Secondly, snag retention and large woody debris retention were concerns. The DM correctly adopted the Forest Plan desired conditions for both. The marking guidelines correctly adopted the desired conditions for snag retention. However, project implementation fell short of these guidelines and left some harvest areas deficient in snags and down woody material. Snag retention groups outside the harvested areas were improperly counted as part of the harvest units (activity areas) for purposes of calculation of the snags per acre. The coarse woody debris retention (tons per acre distribution greater than 15") appears to be lower than intended in Forest Plan direction (Appendix A).

Parks-Eiguren Prescribed Burn

1. *How well did the project meet its objectives?* Objectives were mostly met. The purpose of this project was to improve vegetative conditions and wildlife habitat, and reduce fuel loads. Specifically, objectives were to reduce the amount of small diameter fuels (0 to 5 inches) by 50 to 90 percent, and the coarse woody debris (greater than or equal to 3 inches) by 15 to 25 percent. Duff consumption was to be limited to less than 30 percent and mineral soil exposure limited to less than 10 percent. These objectives appear to have been met with the burn. The only areas observed that appeared to have burned hot enough to remove all surface fuels and expose mineral soil were associated with tree stumps in a previously thinned area. The herbaceous and shrub vegetation communities within the project area were expected to remain at, or move towards, desired conditions as a result of this project.

The burn was relatively light, as is appropriate for a burn a short distance upwind from a forested community such as Yellow Pine. Vegetation objectives were partly met, as the burn consumed most of the fine fuels but had little effect on the large fuels. Future treatments will be needed to create large snags and to further approach desired conditions in Forest Plan Appendix A.

2. *Were the effects to other resources within the expected range?* The effects were within the parameters detailed in the Decision Memo. Watershed objectives were met as BMPs were implemented.

3. *Was the project design and mitigation effective?* The project management requirements were implemented adequately to keep the project within acceptable ranges of Forest Plan standards and guidelines.

4. *Are actions proposed and associated effects being adequately disclosed in NEPA documents?* Yes, the action fits in a categorical exclusion (section 31.2, category 10: Hazardous Fuels Reduction Activities Using Prescribed Fire, Not to Exceed 4,500 Acres), and is documented in the District's 9-page decision memo (DM), which does not require analysis and documentation of environmental effects. However, the DM does explain why there are no extraordinary circumstances. It also explains how the project complies with the Forest Plan, which includes two standards that prescribed burn projects need to meet to protect resources. The DM provides a comprehensive summary description of the project including project design features.

5. *Were prescriptions, projects, and activities implemented as designed and in compliance with the Forest Plan?* Yes, the burn was implemented as designed, and monitoring is continuing as specified in the burn plan as well.

Hazard Creek Campground Reconstruction

1. *How well did the project meet its objectives?* Objectives were met. The purpose of the project was to relocate campsites that were too close to water, lengthen sites to handle recreation vehicles (RVs), and add more sites to accommodate more use. The project met these three objectives. Sites were moved back from the edge of the riparian areas to hardened campsites. Tent pads and parking pads of adequate size were constructed or reconstructed. Each campsite was appropriately located to blend in with the natural landscape and topography.

2. *Were the effects to other resources within the expected range?* Yes. Soil movement was kept to a minimum. The visual quality of campground was either maintained or improved. Quality of the campsites was improved while other resources were protected. Toilet facilities were much improved by addition of one new sweet-smelling toilet facility, thus improving recreation and better protecting water quality.

3. *Was the project design and mitigation effective?* Yes. Mitigation measures were successful in keeping soil movement to a minimum and protecting the water quality of Hazard Lake. Old established water supply lines were well taken care of as prescribed by the Forest archaeologist. Hydro-mulching of exposed ground was quite effective in revegetating the site.

4. *Are actions proposed and associated effects adequately disclosed in NEPA documents?* Yes, the action fits in a categorical exclusion (section 31.2, category 2: Repair and maintenance of Recreation Sites and Facilities), and is documented in a DM. Although the DM for the categorical exclusion did not need to disclose the environmental effects, it did accurately describe the purpose and need, accurately depicted the proposed action, and summarized the categorical exclusion analysis.

5. *Have prescriptions, projects, and activities been implemented as designed and in compliance with the Forest Plan?* Yes. All pertinent Forest Plan direction was complied with. The project was implemented almost exactly as intended in the design. During project construction, refinements were made to improve the result and better meet the purpose and need: two campsites were adjusted to better fit the ground conditions, and a third campsite was replaced with another. All changes were within the scope of effects anticipated by the decision. The monitoring field trip generated several further suggestions to fine-tune project completion including blocking an old foot trail, installing a waterbar, and piling more woody material on a close campsite. These measures have been implemented.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation Reports Timing

The 2004 Monitoring and Evaluation report documents and discloses the activities from fiscal year 2004, September 2003 – September 2004. The Payette will continue to issue the Forest Plan Monitoring and Evaluation reports by summer of the following year. Each year's report describes findings from monitoring data collected through the prior year's field season compiled and evaluated during the winter of the reporting year.

Also, the Forest Plan Monitoring and Evaluation report is intended to be a "living" document, meaning there will not be separate year-to-year reports, but rather addendums to the existing report. It also means information displayed in the 2005 report will be added to the 2004 report. Much of what is learned is based on how things evolve from year to year, rather than what is learned at a single point in time. For example, trends and answers to several of the questions in Forest Plan Table IV-1 and Table IV-2 are clearer with the accumulation of annual data collected. The Five-Year Monitoring Report that is scheduled to be issued in 2008 will evaluate those longer-term trends.

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