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## INTRODUCTION

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Monitoring is a key part of implementation. This “Executive Summary of the Clearwater National Forest Monitoring & Evaluation Report for FY03” provides information on the Forest’s monitoring activities. It follows the same format providing only a consolidation of the information available in the more detailed report. The current Forest Plan for the Clearwater National Forest will be kept up-to-date during the revision process. If you would like a copy of the entire report, please access our web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater/index.html>. If you need a paper copy of the report, please contact the:

Clearwater National Forest  
12730 Highway 12  
Orofino, ID 83544  
208/476-4541

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## SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

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### ECONOMICS

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#### Item No. 1 - Quantitative Estimate of Performance Output or Services

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In the full Report, **Table 1: Comparison of Outputs and Activities with those Projected in the Forest Plan** lists outputs and activities occurring in FY03, along with the percent achieved compared with Forest Plan projections.

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#### Item No. 17 - Document Cost of Implementation Compared with Plan Cost

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In the full Report, **Table 2: Comparison Between Yearly Expenditures (in thousands dollars) and Forest Plan Projections (in 2002 dollars)** displays a cost comparison.

### EFFECTS

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#### Item No. 22 - Effects of National Forest Management on Adjacent Land and Communities

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#### ROADS POLICY

In FY03, the Forest completed work on a forest-wide roads analysis.

#### LYNX FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT

The Canada lynx, a rare, forest-dwelling cat, was listed as “*threatened*” by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in March 2000. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement was completed in January 2004; A Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision are expected some time in late 2004.

## ELK HABITAT INITIATIVE

The Clearwater National Forest continued a focused effort to improve wildlife habitat in the North Fork Clearwater sub-basin. The Forest decisions on restoration options in the 156,000 acre Middle Black were presented in the Middle-Black Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD). Implementation began in 2003 and is continuing.

## LEWIS & CLARK BICENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE

In FY03, the Forest implemented the permit system to manage use in the high elevation portion of the Lolo Trail corridor during the bicentennial years.

Work continued on information and interpretation efforts related to the Bicentennial, with employees implementing components of an interpretive plan, developing text for new interpretive signs to be located along U.S. Highway 12 and completing a brochure titled *Following Lewis and Clark along the Lolo Trail*. Construction was completed on the new visitor center and rest stop at Lolo Pass and the dedication was held in June 2003. Interpretive displays are scheduled for completion in 2004.

## RURAL COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Forest continues to work with local communities to secure funds through the Farm Bill's Rural Community Assistance program. In FY03, grants were awarded to the following:

- Clearwater Unlimited, Inc.: \$5,000 for Clearwater Country Visitor Center - Phase II (land transfer), to initiate and support tourism development by creating a regional visitor center.
- Kooskia Revitalization Committee: \$20,000 for the Harpster Volunteer Fire Association building construction project, to enhance response time to fires.
- City of Lapwai: \$4,987 for "Welcome to Lapwai" Signs.
- City of Craigmont: \$20,000 for construction of amphitheater and cedar band shell. This project is part of the total park renovation project and provides a location for the annual town picnic, summer concert series, picnics, meetings, and business promotions/appreciation barbeques.
- City of Kendrick: \$20,000 for depot renovation and development of historical museum, enhancing the quality of living by providing economic and recreational opportunities.

## RECEIPTS TO COUNTIES

Local counties receiving payments for FY03 include:

▪ Benewah County	\$30,608
▪ Clearwater County	\$1,064,914
▪ Idaho County	\$854,103
▪ Latah County	\$318,298
▪ Nez Perce County	\$119
▪ Shoshone County	\$141,472

Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) projects approved for FY03 included:

- Palouse Noxious Weeds - \$18,000 for cooperative weed management with the Clearwater National Forest and Clearwater and Latah Counties.
- Gezel Creek NEPA - \$142,400 for planning restoration and forest management in Gezel Creek.
- Clearwater Mark & Cruise - \$90,000 for contracting sale preparation on the Clearwater NF.
- Prescription Contract - \$27,000 for contracting silvicultural prescriptions on the Clearwater NF.

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## Item No. 23 - Effects of Other Agencies on National Forests

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The Clearwater National Forest works together with many agencies. Key contacts include (but are not limited to) the following agencies:

<i>Nez Perce Tribe</i>	<i>Idaho Department of Fish and Game</i>
<i>Idaho Historic Preservation Office</i>	<i>Idaho, Latah and Clearwater County Sheriff's Offices</i>
<i>Idaho Department of Lands</i>	<i>Natural Resources Conservation Service</i>
<i>National Park Service</i>	<i>Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation</i>
<i>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</i>	<i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Dworshak Hatchery</i>
<i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i>	<i>National Marine Fisheries Service</i>
<i>Idaho Department of Commerce</i>	<i>Idaho Department of Transportation</i>

## FIRE

### FIRE SUPPRESSION

In FY03, the Forest had 117 fires which burned 40,709.7 acres of Forest lands. This is the largest acreage since 1921 when accurate record keeping began.

### AVIATION

Two Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATs) under contract with the Idaho Department of Lands were managed and staged out of the Grangeville Air Tanker Base in 2003. These aircraft delivered 6,950 gallons of retardant to fires on the Clearwater with an additional 27,037 gallons delivered from Missoula. Helicopters delivered an additional 70,234 gallons from a portable retardant plant on the Beaver Lakes Complex at Powell RD.

Both Exclusive Use helicopters were dispatched to other regions to assist with their fire season before starting their contracts here. Zone personnel were dispatched and linked up with our aircraft when our contracts started and remained with the helicopters until fire conditions here warranted their return. Clearwater/Nez Perce Forest Fire Zone, helicopters flew a total of 446.4 hours on the Zone, 160 hours of which were on the Clearwater. A total of 29 different helicopters were utilized on the Clearwater.

### WILDLAND FIRE USE

This management option was selected for 19 fire starts in FY03, 14 within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and 5 within the Clearwater Fire Management Unit. These fires burned a total of 7,544 acres. Many lightning ignitions did not meet wildland fire use prescription criteria due to high fire danger indices in the Northern Region; however, due to resource shortages, many of these fires were allowed to burn unchecked where risk to life and property were low. These fires also provide significant resource benefits.

### FUELS REDUCTION

Brush disposal trust funds were used to treat 504 acres of activity fuels resulting from timber harvest. These treatments significantly reduced the fuels backlog on the Forest.

Hazardous fuel treatment dollars were used to treat 3,083 acres; our FY03 target was 4,890 acres. Two environmental documents were completed and several new projects were initiated for out-year treatment.

The North Fork accomplished 55 acres, the Powell District treated 1,364 acres, the Lochsa District treated 700 acres and the Palouse District accomplished 964 acres of hazardous fuels treatments.

Due to the extended dry conditions in September, the risk of igniting additional acres was too great limiting the Forest's ability to meet its target acreage. However, the North Fork District was able to take advantage of late season weather conditions and ignited several landscape burns in the Upper North Fork accomplishing nearly 5,000 acres which will be credited to the FY04 target.

## AIR QUALITY

Prescribed burning was accomplished during the spring and fall burning periods. Smoke management from prescribed fires was managed within the guidelines of the North Idaho Airshed Group. No specific air quality monitoring was done within the Forest.

## FISHERIES

### PACFISH / INFISH

No formal review by the PACFISH Implementation Review Team was conducted on the Forest in 2003. Due to an active fire season, no PACFISH reviews were completed during 2003; the reviews were rescheduled for 2004.

Similar to the PACFISH reviews, no INFISH reviews were completed in 2003; the reviews were rescheduled for 2004.

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### Item No. 8 - Water Quality and Stream Condition for Fisheries and Non-Fisheries Beneficial Uses

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Information on Non-Fisheries Beneficial Uses is included in the **Soil And Water** section under **Item 8**.

**Stream Inventory Targets:** Due to budget constraints and fire restrictions, the Forest did not complete any stream inventories in 2003.

**Improvement Targets:** Due to budget constraints, targets in 2003 focused on riparian protection regarding grazing, fish passage improvement projects and road obliteration. Approximately 19 miles (41 acres) of fisheries habitat improvement were completed.

**Stream Temperature Monitoring:** The stream temperature-monitoring program was expanded in 2002 to approximately 300 sites across the Forest. The full report summarizes the 301 sites on 260 streams that were monitored during the summer of 2003.

**Fish Population and Habitat Monitoring:** Fish population numbers and/or stream substrate conditions were monitored in selected drainages in the Lolo Creek, Lochsa River and North Fork Clearwater River watersheds. Personnel from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Nez Perce Tribe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality also monitored fish populations within various streams on the Forest; these monitoring projects were coordinated with the Forest programs to avoid unnecessary duplication of monitoring efforts.

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### Item No. 31 - Anadromous Fisheries

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### POTLATCH RIVER WATERSHED

No natural or anthropogenic events occurred on USFS lands in the Potlatch River watershed during 2003 that caused changes to the aquatic environment. Fences on ten permanent riparian enclosures (six along the East Fork Potlatch River, one on Ruby Creek, one on the East Fork Big Bear Creek, and two on ponds within the Corral Creek watershed) were maintained in 2003. Since the stream inventories of all fish-bearing

streams within the Potlatch River drainage on National Forest System lands have been completed within the last ten years, no additional surveys were scheduled for 2003. Stream temperature monitoring was conducted at 14 sites on 9 streams in the Potlatch River drainage in 2003 to evaluate habitat conditions for steelhead trout. Steelhead redds have been monitored in the East Fork Potlatch River since 1992 twice a year (April and May). These surveys have shown a consistently low number of redds from three to eight. During the 2003 spawning period, six steelhead redds were observed in the index area.

### LOLO CREEK WATERSHED

No natural or anthropogenic events occurred in the Lolo Creek watershed during 2003 that caused changes to the aquatic environment. Fence maintenance on existing riparian enclosures was completed in 2003 and the Forest concentrated fish enhancement efforts on two culvert replacement projects. Due to budget constraints, Eldorado Creek and Musselshell Creek resurveys that were scheduled in 2002 and 2003 were not completed. Stream temperatures were monitored throughout the summer at 21 sites on 19 streams (only FS sites) during 2003. 15 sites were sampled showing low numbers of steelhead juveniles; however, high numbers of spring chinook salmon were observed.

As part of the continuing Idaho Supplemental Studies being conducted in the Lolo Creek drainage, the Nez Perce Tribal Fisheries Department completed the 2003 Lolo Creek spring Chinook spawning ground surveys. These surveys were conducted in the main stems of Lolo, Eldorado, Musselshell and Yoosa creeks. A total of 69 redds were observed.

### OROFINO CREEK WATERSHED

No natural or anthropogenic events occurred in the USFS drainages within the Orofino Creek watershed during 2003 that caused changes to the aquatic environment. Stream surveys that were scheduled for Orofino Creek in 2003 were not completed due to budget constraints.

### MIDDLE FORK CLEARWATER RIVER WATERSHED

No natural or anthropogenic events occurred in the USFS drainages within the Middle Fork Clearwater River watershed during 2003 that caused changes to the aquatic environment. Since the stream inventories of all fish bearing streams within the Middle Fork Clearwater River drainage have been completed on National Forest System lands during 1996, no additional habitat surveys were scheduled for 2003. Stream temperatures were monitored throughout the summer.

### LOCHSA RIVER WATERSHED

With the exception of areas affected by wildfire, no other natural or anthropogenic events occurred within the Lochsa River watershed during 2003 that caused changes to the aquatic environment. The burned areas resulted in reduced streamside cover and although the effects have not been quantified, some increase in summertime temperature is expected. Aquatic funds supplemented Forest funds from the engineering and watershed and BPA funds from the Nez Perce Tribe to complete road decommissioning activities in several drainages and two culvert replacement projects in the upper Lochsa River area. The Nez Perce Tribe provided the Forest funds to replace the culverts. No re-surveys were scheduled for 2003. Stream temperatures were monitored throughout the summer at 113 sites on 95 streams within the Lochsa River drainage.

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### Item No. 32 - Inland Fisheries

### NORTH FORK CLEARWATER RIVER WATERSHED

Several small and four large fires during 2003 caused changes to the aquatic environment. The loss of streamside cover will likely cause an increase in summer temperatures in smaller streams, but minimal and non-measurable effects are expected on the major fish bearing streams. In addition there was one natural

event and one road-related event that brought minor changes to Skull Creek, and one natural event that resulted in substrate movement in Elizabeth Creek. No other natural or anthropogenic events occurred in the USFS drainages within the North Fork Clearwater River watershed during 2003 that caused changes to the aquatic environment. One temporary electric fence that was installed in 1996 around the sediment trap in the upper Elk Creek basin was maintained in 2003. Due to budget constraints, none of the 55 miles of stream scheduled for inventory or any new stream habitat or population surveys were completed in 2003. The Forest continued the substrate-monitoring project on the North Fork Clearwater River.

In 2003, stream temperatures were monitored at 133 sites on 118 streams within the North Fork Clearwater River drainage. Due to budget constraints, fish population monitoring stations were only monitored via snorkeling at four sites in the upper Cayuse Creek in conjunction the IDFG/USFS bull trout study. Bull trout spawning surveys were conducted on 14 streams within the North Fork Clearwater River drainage. IDFG marked and monitored 150 adult bull trout.

## PALOUSE RIVER DRAINAGE

No natural or anthropogenic events occurred on USFS lands in the Palouse River watershed during 2003 that caused changes to the aquatic environment, and no major watershed restoration activities (i.e., road obliteration, new riparian fence construction, instream restoration projects) were scheduled. Stream temperatures were monitored throughout the summer at ten sites on nine streams within the Palouse River drainage to evaluate habitat conditions for brook trout and rainbow trout. Due to the absence of sensitive fish species (i.e., steelhead trout, westslope cutthroat trout, bull trout, spring chinook salmon), fish population monitoring is not scheduled on an annual basis within the Palouse River drainage; no monitoring was conducted in 2003.

## HERITAGE PROGRAM

### Item No. 4 - Protection and Condition of Heritage Resource Sites

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A total of 50 projects/sites were stabilized, rehabilitated, monitored, or protected. Much of the monitoring done in FY03 was done as part of deferred maintenance activities where the current condition of sites documented and the cost to bring the sites up to a minimal standard of protection was assessed.

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Clearwater National Forest contains the largest segment of the overland route taken by the Corps of Discovery during 1805 and 1806, and several significant heritage resources are located in the vicinity of the route, including campsites used by Lewis and Clark. The Forest has been involved in identifying and protecting these sites in advance of the anticipated increases in recreation use and potential for vandalism during the bicentennial event.

A series of public lectures were also presented as part of the Heritage public interpretation program at a variety of venues that included Washington State University, University of Idaho, local grade schools and local civic organizations. The topics presented ranging from Lewis and Clark to aboriginal and Euro-American settlement systems.

## LANDS

### Item No. 12 - Land Ownership Adjustments

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During FY03, the Forest completed the purchase of 16 acres of trail easements from Plum Creek Timberlands. This is the second of a four-phase transaction involving Plum Creek lands. The purchases and trail

easement acquisitions are in support of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. Dollars appropriated for Phases 1, 3 and 4 are intended for the fee purchase of Plum Creek lands while in Phase 2 the Forest acquired Lewis and Clark Trail easements across Plum Creek fee lands. These transactions are taking place on the Powell Ranger District. Phase 2 was completed in 2003 while Phase 3, acquisition of 212.5 acres in fee lands, is scheduled for completion in 2004. If money is appropriated, Phase 4 will be completed in FY05.

The PITS EXCHANGE/BOISE FRONT EXCHANGE, involving approximately 4,124 acres of Federal land and approximately 2,827 acres of non-Federal lands, has been identified. This is scheduled to be a FY04 legislated land exchange.

The BROWNS MEADOW LAND EXCHANGE involves Federal land on the Palouse Ranger District. All parcels have been cruised and appraised. The deeds were exchanged in October 2003 and the case is completed.

## MINERALS

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### Item No. 15 - Minerals Prospecting and Development

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A total of 102 operations were processed on the Forest during FY03. Of these, 85 were non-bonded, non-energy operations; 17 were bonded non-energy operations. All 17 bonded non-energy operations were administered to standard.

#### LOCATABLE MINERALS

The only significant locatable mineral mined from the Forest is gold. An estimated 7303 ounces of gold were mined from the Forest during FY03. The value of this amount of gold would be approximately \$9,000 at an average gold price of \$300/oz.

#### COMMON VARIETY MINERALS

The Forest provided mineral materials for road surfacing to county and state agencies, for national forest roads and for use in private industry. Forest records show that 86,235 tons of materials were produced from national forest lands in FY03 with an estimated value of \$21,559.

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### Item No. 36 - Minerals Resource Availability

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The Clearwater National Forest consists of a total of 1,825,318 acres. Of these acres, 259,167 (approximately 14%) are in the Clearwater portion of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and are withdrawn from mineral entry. In addition to wilderness, the Forest currently has 52 individual sites withdrawn from mineral entry. This figure has remained the same since FY94.

## RANGE

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### Item No. 6 - Livestock Forage Available, Range in Good Condition Per Established Allotments

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There are 17 cattle allotments and 19 grazing permits on the Forest. Two grazing permits were inactive this year. There were 1,320 cattle (cow/calf pairs) permitted to graze on the Forest. This amounted to approximately 6,035 head months (HMs) in FY03. An HM is one month's use and occupancy of the range by one animal. There were also 416 horses permitted to graze on the Forest in 2003. These numbers reflect the permitted animals on cattle allotments and Outfitter and Guide Permits and do not include animals associated with recreational visitors.

NEPA was initiated on three allotments in the Palouse Drainage and will be completed in FY04.

National Forest land within the Hatter/Flat Creek allotment is within the Browns Meadow land exchange. When completed in FY04, this allotment will be eliminated.

## RECREATION

### Item No 2: Wide Spectrum of Recreation Opportunities

#### DEVELOPED AREA USE

Fees collected in FY03 increased about 8% at developed campgrounds. The number of visitors to campgrounds, as reported on their fee envelopes, totaled approximately 22,483.

Recreation Use And Fees Collected*	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03
Recreation Use (M Visitor Days)	1681	1808	1600	1328	1347	1576	1702
Fees Collected	\$85,572	\$96,763	\$85,907	\$95,347	\$96,664	\$113,760	\$124,000
Recreation Use Change from Previous Year (%)	+35%	+13%	-11%	-17%	+1.5%	+17%	+8

#### FEE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

Revenue from the fee demonstration program continued to play a vital role in providing valued added products and services to Forest visitors.

### Item No. 14 - Off Highway Vehicle Use Impacts

#### COMPLAINTS AND CONFLICTS BETWEEN USER GROUPS

Observation of recreation activity on the Forest indicates that use of OHVs continued to increase in FY03. OHVs are routinely observed on most Forest roads. Although most use occurs on roads, a significant amount of OHV use on trails and off roads has been observed, in some instances, in violation of restrictions.

Complaints from Forest visitors continue to be received, particularly with respect to use of OHVs on trails in the Great Burn roadless areas.

Actions taken in response to complaints included increased visits by Forest administrative and law enforcement officials to confirm reported use, identify points of entry, and installation of signing found to be inadequate in 2001. An additional summer position devoted primarily to monitoring OHV use on the North Fork and Powell Ranger Districts was staffed in 2003.

Emphasis in 2003 was placed on ensuring that restrictions on use of OHVs are adequately signed and increased monitoring by law enforcement personnel. All trails in the Great Burn area on which motorized use is restricted were signed in 2003.

#### CHANGES IN TRAIL AND CAMPSITE CONDITIONS AT FISH LAKE

Monitoring of OHV activity on the trail to Fish Lake and at the lakeside campsites continued in FY03 with one or more visits to the lake during the July 4<sup>th</sup> through Labor Day holidays.

## RESOURCE DAMAGE AND INCIDENTS OF UNAUTHORIZED CONSTRUCTION OF A TRAIL

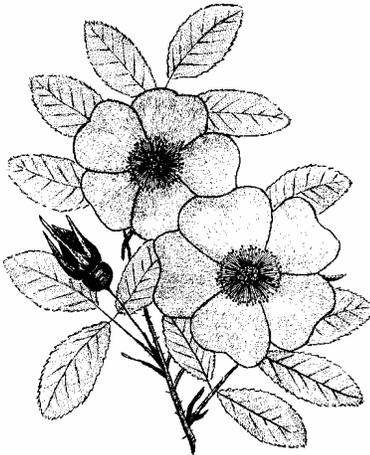
Resource damage to trails and other resources resulting from motorized use is still considered to be minimal and relatively easily corrected though concerns over the effects of OHV use are increasing - particularly on the Palouse Ranger District. Incidents of unauthorized creation of OHV trails by cutting vegetation and repeated use of a route continue to occur throughout the Forest, and particularly in the North Fork of the Palouse River drainage. There have also been incidents of widening of Forest system trails by OHV users. As these incidents are found they are evaluated and action taken to deter further use.

## RESPONSE TO DEMANDS FOR OHV OPPORTUNITIES

The Forest reviewed all trails in the Forest transportation system for suitability of OHV travel in FY01. Trails suitable for travel with OHVs will be designated in the Forest Access Guide as permitting travel with OHVs less than 50 inches in width. Use of trails not listed as "Open" for use with OHVs is described in the 2003-2004 Access Guide as "Prohibited" or "Restricted".

One outcome of these discussions on the Palouse Ranger District is a proposal to "create" a designated, signed system of OHV routes utilizing existing roads, trails and new trails that will provide an estimated 100 mile system of connected loop riding opportunities on federal, state and private lands.

Construction of an OHV system of loop routes(Deception/Cedars OHV trail) began in 2002 in the upper area of the North Fork Clearwater River drainage with completion anticipated in 2004.



## RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS

Fenn Mountain and Rhodes Peak are in application process for official designation.

During FY03 no reports were prepared addressing Research Natural Area issues.

## RESEARCH NEEDS

### Item No. 24: Research Needs

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**Lolo Pass Redevelopment Project** composed of multiple studies including "Impact of Hwy 12 on Fishers" and "Evaluating Wolverine and Lynx Movements." Contact: Mike K. Schwartz (406)542-4161.

**Temperature Monitoring for Fish Bearing Streams** within the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness Area. Contact: Pat Murphy (208)476-4541.

IDF&G high mountain lake surveys in support of Fisheries Management Plan for 2001-2006. Contact: Fisheries Bureau in Boise, Idaho (208)334-3791.

IDF&G bull trout tag surveys/information. Contact: Dan Schiff (208)799-5010.

# RIPARIAN AREAS

## Item No. 10 Riparian Area Condition

In 2003, the Forest measured channel geometry and instream sediment at 13 streams across the Forest. Data collected at each site may be obtained by contacting the Forest Hydrologist at the Supervisor's Office.

### Channel Morphology Sites - 2003

Basin	Stream	Beneficial Use	Activities	Year(s) Data Collected
Palouse River (17060108)				
Lochsa River (17060303)	Boulder Creek (Trib of Lochsa)	Steelhead, Cutthroat, Brook trout	Baseline	1989, 1992, 1994, 1999, 2003
	Warm Springs Creek	Steelhead, Cutthroat trout	Baseline	1989, 1995, 2003
	Weir Creek	Steelhead, Cutthroat trout	Baseline	1989, 2003
	Postoffice Creek	Steelhead, Cutthroat, Bull trout	Road Obliteration	1989, 1997, 1998, 2003
	Badger Creek (below Trib CC)	Steelhead, Cutthroat, Bull trout	Road Obliteration	1989, 1994, 2001, 2002, 2003
	Badger Creek (above Trib CC)	Steelhead, Cutthroat, Bull trout	Baseline	2001, 2002, 2003
	Badger Creek Trib CC	Steelhead, Cutthroat, Bull trout	Road Obliteration	2001, 2002, 2003
Clearwater River (17060306)				
Upper North Fork Clearwater River (17060307)	Upper North Fork Clearwater River (Above Long Creek)	Rainbow, Cutthroat, Bull trout, Mountain Whitefish	Baseline	1990, 1998, 2003
	Elizabeth Creek	Cutthroat, Brook trout	Baseline	1989, 1992, 1996, 2003
	Lake Creek	Rainbow, Cutthroat trout, Mountain Whitefish	Timber Harvest	1989, 2003
	4 <sup>th</sup> of July Creek	Cutthroat Trout	Baseline	1988, 2003
	Weitas Creek	Kokanee, Rainbow, Cutthroat, Bull trout	Baseline	1990, 1998, 2003
	Hemlock Creek	Kokanee, Rainbow, Cutthroat trout	Baseline	1990, 1998, 2003

## ROAD DECOMMISSIONING PROGRAM

In FY03, 33.3 miles of road were decommissioned at a cost of \$7,000 per mile. This cost includes equipment, materials, labor and project administration and inspection. The Nez Perce Tribe contributed funding and labor under a Watershed Restoration Partnership for decommissioning 23 miles on the Powell Ranger District.

Year	Reconstruction (Miles)	New Construction (Miles)	Decommissioning (Miles)	Intermittent Service (Miles)
1998	85.3	1.1	134	8.6
1999	19.8	1.0	83.5	10.6
2000	33.1	8.6	47.4	4
2001	11.6	0	64	8.3
2002	0.0	0.1	40.4	3.0
2003	24.4	0	33.3	4.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>174.2</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>402.6</b>	<b>39.1</b>

The monitoring program on the Clearwater National Forest is designed primarily as a feedback loop to the road decommissioning program to ensure that the goals of the program are being met. The 2003 results indicate that most of the problems with surface erosion and small mass failures are associated with cross drain channels. In the future, we will focus more emphasis on techniques to lessen these problems.

## ROADS

### Item No. 13: Miles of Road Open/Restricted

Miles Of Restricted And Open Roads

Restricted			Method Of Closure				Open
District	Yearlong (miles)	Seasonal (miles)	Gates	Guardrail	Earthen Barrier	Posted: Sign Only	Year-round, weather permitting
Pierce	360	171	140	69	49	37	533
Palouse	180	411	74	41	71	34	265
North Fork	447	117	67	42	135	24	557
Lochsa	247	40	80	53	45	18	113
Powell	383	82	44	48	129	17	348
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,617</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>1,816</b>

## SCENIC RESOURCES

### Item No. 3: Visual Quality Objectives

A total of two timber sales and seven small salvage sales were completed and closed out in FY03.

- Top of the World Timber Sale is located on the Palouse Ranger District and is adjacent to the access road to Elk Creek Falls Trailhead, a heavily used recreation area, and to State Highway 3. The sale was designed using harvest methods that would minimize visual effects within these important visual corridors. Screening was retained where necessary and skidding corridors were carefully treated to reduce the visual effects of the harvest activities. The completed timber sale met or exceeded the SIO of *Moderate (VQO of Partial Retention)*.
- Rascal Ridge Timber Sale is located on the Powell Ranger District and is adjacent to a low use travel corridor with an SIO of Very Low (*VQO of Maximum Modification*). It met this Scenic Integrity Objective.
- There were seven salvage sales including 5201 salvage, 5028 Salvage, Austin Salvage, Lookyhere Salvage, Yellow Pine Restoration, Johnson Creek Salvage and Wagner Gulch salvage. Most critical were the Johnson Salvage and Wagner Gulch salvage which are located adjacent to heavily used recreation corridors. All of the salvage sales met or exceeded the SIO for the area which ranged from *Moderate (VQO of Partial Retention)* for the Wagner Gulch area to *Very Low (VQO of Maximum Modification)* for the 5201 and 5028 Salvage.



There were several prescribed fires on the Clearwater National Forest in FY03. Of significance was a prescribed burn along the U.S. Highway 12 corridor near Syringa on the Lochsa Ranger District. This activity was designed to reduce fire hazard and to improve habitat. There was no significant impact on the scenic integrity from any critical viewpoints from these activities.

Additional information regarding effects on scenery of other FY03 management activities is available at the Supervisor's Office.

## SOIL AND WATER

### Item No. 8 Water Quality and Stream Condition for Fisheries and Non-Fisheries Beneficial Uses

The Forest processed 2,137 suspended sediment, 2,140 turbidity, and 25 bedload samples in 2003. Bedload sediment samples were collected to determine the proportion of sediment moving as suspended and bedload in the watershed.

Of the 11 water quality stations where suspended sediment measurements have been previously collected, only one had sediment levels higher in 2003 than the mean of all previous years. This station was at Badger Creek where the Nez Perce Tribe and Clearwater National Forest are actively obliterating roads.

At the 11 Clearwater National Forest water quality monitoring stations, 2,140 turbidity samples were collected and analyzed in 2003. All samples met the above criteria.

Elk Creek Suspended and Bedload Sediment: A total of 152 samples of bedload have been collected at the Elk Creek station between 1978 and 2003.

Lolo Creek Suspended and Bedload Sediment: A total of 152 bedload samples have been collected and analyzed at Lolo Creek between 1980 and 2003.

### Item No. 9 Best Management Practice (BMP) Applications

The Forest did not conduct an audit of the Idaho Forest Practices Act BMPs because of commitments to the fires on the Powell Ranger District. A summary of all audits from 1990 to 2002 was prepared instead resulting in an overall effectiveness of 97.8%. The summary is available in the full report.

### Item No. 11 Soil Productivity

Monitoring efforts for 2003 focused on assessing the effects of past management practices in proposed treatment units within new projects. These projects were North Lochsa Face, Middle Black, Dog Marquette, White/White, and Brick Trout. Specifics are available within the full report.

## TIMBER

### Annual Timber Volume Offered, Sold, Cut and Under Contract (MMBF)

	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03
Offer	23.9	8.1	20.1	5.8	30.8
Sold	11.2	17.3	18.1	5.8	29.8
Cut	16.3	9.4	15.3	15.9	25.2
Contract	58.4	55.5	57.4	49.3	36.6

In FY03, the Forest offered a variety of products, including sawlogs, cedar products, firewood, Christmas trees, and fence posts. These products were sold through 6 timber sales, 947 firewood permits, 646 Christmas tree permits, and 18 miscellaneous

collection permits. A total volume of 30.8 million board feet (MMBF) was sold.

**Total Acres of Timber Sold on the Forest by Harvest Method**



	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03
Clearcut and Clearcut with Reserves	315	79	113	192	472
Shelterwood and Seed Tree	738	521	348	94	472
Final Removal	606	0	10	0	16
Selection	8	743	46	0	0
Intermediate Harvest	1,936	435	602	158	271

**Roaded and Unroaded Timber Sold**

Year	Roaded Sawtimber	Roaded NIC*	Roaded Total	Unroaded Sawtimber	Unroaded NIC*	Unroaded Total	Forest Total
99	8.6	2.6	11.2	0	0	0	11.2
00	14.7	2.6	17.3	0	0	0	17.3
01	13.9	4.2	18.1	0	0	0	18.1
02	5.8	0	5.8	0	0	0	5.8
03	28.6	1.2	29.8	0	0	0	29.8

**Comparison of Forest Plan Projections with Annual Acreage of Timber Sales, 1988-2003**

Management area	Forest plan Acres	Forest plan Volume mmbf	Timber sale Average acres	Timber sale Average volume mmbf
Timber Production	3,497	81.2	2596	40.6
Road/Trail Corridors	125	.8	33	.7
Big-Game Summer Range	3,099	62.5	29	.6
Big-Game Winter Range	1,007	23.6	390	6.7
Riparian Areas	3,516	5.2	57	1.1
Middle Fork Clearwater Scenic Corridor	0	0	19	.5

**Item No. 18: Harvested Land Restocked Within Five Years**

**199 Regeneration Harvests Adequately Restocked in Five Years**

	Clearcut	Seedcut	Final	Selection	TOTAL
Number of Stands	18	25	19	1	63
Number of Acres	220	362	569	25	1166
Stand Success %	94%	96%	100%	100	97%
Acres Success %	98%	97%	100%	100%	99%

**Item No. 19 - Unsuitable Timberlands Examined to Determine if they have Become Suitable**

All timberlands, both suitable and unsuitable are currently being inventoried as part of the Forest's compartment inventory program. Occasionally, unsuitable timberlands may also be examined in association with an analysis of a proposed project. Both types of examinations are directed at confirming and refining the suitability determinations made in the Forest Plan.

**Item No. 20 - Validate Maximum Size Limits for Harvest Areas**

**FY03 Even-aged Regeneration Harvests by Harvest Type and Size Category**

District	Clearcut & Clearcut with Reserves		Seedtree & Shelterwood		Final Removal	
	#Stands <40 Acres	# Stands > 40 Acres	#Stands < 40 Acres	# Stands > 40 Acres	# Stands < 40 Acres	# Stands > 40 Acres
Pierce	8	0	17	3	0	0
Palouse	15	2	12	0	0	0
North Fork	0	0	1	0	0	0
Lochsa	0	0	0	0	0	0
Powell	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	23	2	30	3	0	0
Average Size	13 Acres	67 Acres	13 Acres	47 Acres	0 Acres	0 Acres

**Item No. 21 - Insect and Disease Status as a Result of Activities**

Regular aerial detection surveys were conducted on the Forest in FY03. Mapping of current tree mortality and damage occurred on all Districts.

Tree mortality caused by the Douglas-fir beetle remained about the same in FY03. Grand fir tree mortality caused by the fir engraver bark beetle increased dramatically throughout the Clearwater region.

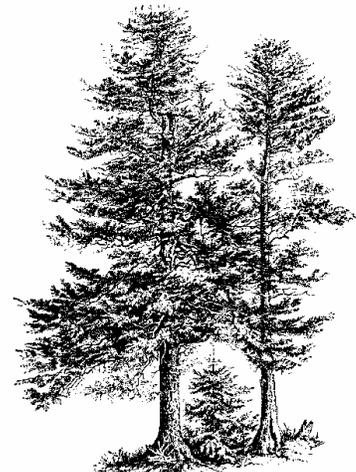
There was a significant increase in mountain pine beetle infestations of lodgepole pine stands in FY03. Approximately 3,200 acres were mapped containing some 4,750 recently killed trees.

There was a decrease in the areas infested with balsam wooly adelgid in FY03. The western balsam bark beetle outbreaks in subalpine fir have remained static.

The area of defoliation on grand fir and Douglas-fir caused by the Douglas-fir tussock moth outbreak on the Palouse Ranger District completely disappeared in FY03.

The hemlock looper, which is another defoliator that feeds on mountain hemlock, grand fir, and subalpine fir, seems to have reached its peak during FY02 and appears to have died out during FY03.

The decline of mature and old western redcedar caused by what is believed to be Armillaria root disease continues, resulting in trees with dead tops, dead branches, severely constricted tree crowns, and sporadic tree mortality. Monitoring will continue on this disease that continues to intensify.



# TRAILS

## Item No. 16 - Trail Management

### Miles of Trail Maintenance Accomplished\*

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>Level I</b>	710	773.05	731	625	733	1025.08
Motorized	398	298.4	364	254	342	591.67
Non-Motorized	320	474.65	367	371	391	433.41
<b>Level II</b>	123	67.5	45	32	53	45.10
Motorized	76	34.2	18	26	22	20.8
Non-Motorized	47	33.3	27	6	31	24.3
<b>Level III</b>	84	31.1	70	20	21	82.87
Motorized	32	2.4	54	10	9	51.76
Non-Motorized	52	28.7	16	10	12	31.11
<b>TOTAL MAINTAINED</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>871.65</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>1153.05</b>
Motorized	498	335	437	290	373	664.23
Non-Motorized	419	536.65	409	387	434	488.82

Trail Maintenance Labor Type	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Force Account Maintenance (includes flood repair in 96 & 97)	246	329.3	254	10	113	405.35
Volunteer Maintenance	308	227.5	327	130	140	325.68
Contract Maintenance	363	314.8	265	485	554	422.02

### 2003 Trail Reconstruction Program

Again in 2003, trail construction funds were diverted to the national fires suppression effort.

However, contract work was completed on some projects; and some contract work was started on others.

Projects Completed	Trail No.	Miles
Powell Complex portion of L&C Trail	24	4
Surprise Creek	219	5.2
<b>Projects Started</b>		
Deception OHV Trail	complex	4
Wendover Ridge	25	1
Pete King Ridge	708	3
Feather Creek I	767	5
<b>Total Trail Reconstruction</b>		<b>24</b>

## WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

The scenic easement review board evaluated a variety of landowner proposals during five meetings in FY03. These included timber harvest, remodeling and additions to existing homes, new home construction, road construction, bare land development, barn and shop proposals, and commercial activities.

All Lochsa Ranger District projects were in compliance with the River Plan.

Five outfitters operate on the Lochsa River under special use permit; and five special use permits are active on the Middle Fork Clearwater River.

Outfitted fishing is an on-going challenge and the Forest initiated an Outfitted Fishing Needs Analysis this year. Issues, such as highway safety and congestion continue to raise hard questions for management.

The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests cooperated in sharing river rangers for the Lochsa patrol season.



## WILDERNESS

### Item No. 5: Wilderness

The Wilderness Program on the Clearwater National Forest was revitalized in 2002 with the arrival of two new permanent wilderness rangers to the Powell Ranger District. Based on Levels of Acceptable Change (LAC) and through monitoring and field inventory from field seasons, areas were identified where Forest Plan standards are not being met. Monitoring will continue in FY03 with the intent of the Forest Plan to move areas into compliance by their assigned Opportunity Class.

#### SELWAY-BITTERROOT WILDERNESS VOLUNTEERS

Clearwater NF	
# Volunteers	47
# Volunteer Hours	1,804

Volunteers contribute a substantial amount of time, energy and talent to the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness Program including visitor information at wilderness portals, trail maintenance, and campsite restoration. The table at right summarizes the volunteer efforts in the Selway-Bitterroot

Wilderness (SWB) on the Clearwater National Forest during 2003.

#### GREAT BURN VOLUNTEERS

The Great Burn Trail Monitoring Project utilized more than thirty-five volunteers who collectively logged hundreds of hours of trail monitoring on eighteen field outings. Volunteers observed and documented both the types and levels of motorized recreation taking place within the Great Burn, as well as user conflicts, illegal activity, resource damage, user-created trails, trail and trailhead conditions, signage, vandalism and the condition of campsites.

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT

In 2003, a total of 13 incidents were reported in the SBW and 3 violation notices were issued. Most of these incidents involved vegetation damage, exceeding the camping limits, or use of power equipment (chain saw).

Reports in the Wilderness area	
Number of law enforcement personnel	4
Number of incident reports written	13
Number of warning notices written	1
Number of violation notices written	2

An unauthorized trail and salt block was discovered in the Hidden Creek drainage in 2002. The investigation is on-going.

## AIRSTRIP MONITORING

Clearwater NF	
# of Monitoring Days	31
Private	33
Administrative for Facility	1
Other FS Administrative	1
Fire	4 landings, 5 sling loads
Outfitters	3
Total	42

Fire closures limited the number of landing days during the FY03 season. Losing 33 days of monitoring will undoubtedly skew the statistics for this airstrip. We will continue to monitor the airstrip in FY04.

Base-line use figures have not yet been determined for this airstrip.

## OUTFITTERS

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. Access closures during the 2003 fire season limited some outfitter itineraries.

## WILDERNESS TRAIL MAINTENANCE

### Summary Of Trail Maintenance In The Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area For 2003.

	Opportunity Class IV	Opportunity Class III	Opportunity Class II	Total
Level I Maintenance	9.8	158.5	5	173.3
Level II Maintenance	7	8.3	0	15.3
Level III Maintenance	0	13.6	0	13.6
<b>TOTAL MILES MAINTAINED</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>180.4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>202.2</b>
Total Miles in Opportunity Class	23.4	259	27.9	310.3

Note: Total number of miles will change slightly from previous years as mileage is being verified as part of the Deferred Maintenance survey effort.

## SNOWMOBILE USE MONITORING

Snowmobile activity on the Forest and interest in it increases every year. A LEO stationed at Powell increased the frequency of our snowmobile monitoring and enforcement capabilities. Six violation notices were written for snowmobiling on trails closed to motorized vehicles.

## WILDLIFE

### Item No. 7: Provision for Plant and Animal Diversity

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A list of stands that have been tentatively identified as old growth habitat as well as those stands that have been "field verified" is available upon request.

### Item No. 25 - Big-Game Habitat Improvement

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About 5,000 acres of big game habitat was improved in association with the prescribed fire program in FY03 with an additional 30,000 acres of habitat benefiting from wildfires scattered throughout the Forest.

In addition, approximately 500 acres of habitat was improved or enhanced associated with the harvesting of timber sales.

On the Clearwater National Forest, the Middle Black and North Lochsa Face projects were approved for implementation in FY03.

**Item Nos. 25-26: Population Trends of Management Indicator, Threatened and Endangered Species**

No new plant or animal species were listed in FY03 that are found on the Clearwater National Forest lands.

## APPEALS AND LITIGATION

### PROJECT LEVEL APPEALS

The Forest received eleven new project appeals on six projects during FY03. The following table presents the status of these appeals.

Project Name	Appellant	Status	Major Appeal Issues
North Lochsa Face Ecosystem Management Project	Nez Perce Tribe Friends of the Clearwater, et al. John Swanson Advocates for the West	Decision Upheld by the Regional Forester	Wildlife Cumulative Effects Range of Alternatives Water Quality/Fisheries Old Growth/Vegetation
Middle-Black Ecosystem Restoration Project	Clearwater Elk Recovery Team Idaho Department of Fish and Game Friends of the Clearwater, et al.	Decision Upheld by the Regional Forester	Effects to Roadless Areas Fisheries Soils Water Quality
Brick Trout Timber Sale	Friends of the Clearwater, et al.	Decision Upheld by the Regional Forester	Analysis Documented in EA Effects to Wildlife Narrow Purpose and Need
White/White Timber Sale	Friends of the Clearwater, et al Nez Perce Tribe Columbia River Inter-Tribal Commission	Decision Upheld by the Regional Forester	Effects to Fisheries Water Quality Cumulative Effects

### LITIGATION

The Forest was involved in one lawsuit during FY03. The following table presents the current status of this lawsuit.

Topic of Lawsuit, Plaintiffs and Defendants	Status	Major Issues
ATV Use on Recreation Trails Montana Wilderness Association, et al. v. Forest Service, et al.	Court decision in favor of Forest Service in November 2002	Use of all terrain vehicles on recreation trails in the general. In particular, the Clearwater and the Bitterroot National Forests failed to amend their Forest Plans to permit ATVs in excess of 40” to use recreation system trails.

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## IMPLEMENTED CHANGES

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### ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

The Forest continued with the implementation of Ecosystem Management concepts and principles when designing projects. The Final Supplemental EIS and Record of Decision for the North Lochsa Face project were released in November 2002.

In addition, the Final EIS and Record of Decision for the Middle-Black Ecosystem Restoration Project were released in January 2003.

The Forest continues to make progress in completing Ecosystem Analysis at the Watershed Scale (EAWS). The EAWS for the Upper Lolo EAWS and the Brushy Fork EAWS were completed in 2003.

### FOREST PLAN REVISION

Forest Plan revision continues with the formation of a Nez Perce/Clearwater National Forests zone revision team located in Kamiah, Idaho. A preliminary draft of the Analysis of Management Situation, which describes the current situation and what needs to change, was completed. Work continued on preparation of data sets to be used in analysis of alternatives.

### FOREST PLAN AMENDMENTS

The only Forest Plan amendments implemented during FY03 were the following:

**Amendment No. 20:** Amends Appendix D to change the maximum acres burned from "wildfire" to "un-scheduled" for certain management areas that have a primary resource emphasis other than timber, Lochsa District, North Lochsa Face EIS.

**Amendment No. 26:** Amends Appendix K to change the water quality objective for the following nine streams: Bar Creek, Cub Creek, Deep Creek, Game Creek, Grasshopper Creek, Ice Creek, Pack Creek, Station Creek and Sun Creek; in addition, the channel types were changed for the following streams: Flat Creek, Squaw Creek, Fisher Creek, Trail Creek and Rock Creek, North Fork District, Middle-Black EIS.

**Amendment No. 29:** Amends Appendix K to change the water quality objective for Big Sand Creek, Palouse District, Big Sand Restoration Project EA.

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## PLANNED ACTIONS

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- 1) Ecosystem Management Documents: **CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT DOCUMENTS** - Procedures for updating the Forest vegetation and land system inventory databases are established and in use. Procedures for conducting broad-scale ecosystem analysis are better understood and being used to guide the Forest's ecosystem analysis projects.  
  
Assessments for the Clearwater, the Lower and Upper North Fork Clearwater, and Palouse River sub-basins have been completed. The sub-basin assessment of the Lochsa River will be completed after other higher priority watershed analysis and NEPA projects are completed.
- 2) Steps in the Revision of the Forest Plan for the Clearwater National Forest: Preparation for the release of the Forest Plan Revision Proposed Action in fiscal year 2004 is the primary task for the revision team. Public involvement concerning revision has started with informal contacts to groups and individuals. Formal public involvement will begin as part of the scoping process after the release of the Proposed

Action. Identification of forest plan revision issues will be completed after public input has been analyzed. A draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Revised Forest Plan is scheduled for release for public review and comment in 2005.

- 3) Amendments That May be Proposed to the Current Forest Plan: Following are some of the proposed Forest Plan amendments that may be expected in FY04.
  - Other Amendments: Throughout 2004, several other project-specific amendments are expected to be identified as analysis continues or is initiated on other projects.
- 4) Projected Budget (Appendix C of Forest Plan): As implementation of the Forest Plan continues, actual dollars versus projected dollars are continually adjusted. Instead of amending the Forest Plan, Table 2 under "**ECONOMICS**" displays this information annually.

## OTHER PLANNED ACTIVITIES

<b>EFFECTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ A Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision for the Lynx Forest Plan amendment are expected to be issued in early 2003 with the projected time for a decision being late 2004.</li> <li>♦ Interpretive displays at the Lolo Pass Visitor Center are to be completed in 2004.</li> </ul>
<b>FISHERIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Monitoring in Lochsa River watershed area is scheduled to continue in 2004-2005.</li> <li>♦ PACFISH and INFISH reviews were rescheduled for 2004.</li> <li>♦ Habitat monitoring in the Orofino Creek drainage was rescheduled for 2005.</li> <li>♦ Population monitoring is planned for the lower Lochsa River area during 2004-2005.</li> <li>♦ The culvert on Toboggan Creek will be replaced with a bridge in 2004.</li> <li>♦ Multiple surveys on these streams and other potential bull trout streams in the North Fork Clearwater drainage are scheduled for survey in 2004 in conjunction with IDF&amp;G.</li> </ul>
<b>LANDS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ The Pits Land Exchange is scheduled for completion as a legislated land exchange in FY04.</li> <li>♦ Acquisition of sections of Lewis and Clark Trail easements across Plum Creek lands will continue in 2004 and, if money is appropriated, be completed in 2005.</li> </ul>
<b>RECREATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Recreational use surveys begun in FY01 will continue thru FY03 with the results being available in FY04.</li> <li>♦ Construction of the Deception/Cedars OHV trail continued in FY03 with completion scheduled for FY04.</li> <li>♦ Snowmobile activity in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness area will be monitored from the air in FY04.</li> </ul>
<b>RIPARIAN AREAS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Road obliteration to eliminate unneeded roads in the Deception Gulch area is planned to continue in FY04.</li> <li>♦ Beginning in 2002 and continuing through 2003, an estimated 50 miles of road will be decommissioned in the Badger Creek watershed. Monitoring will continue each year through 2007.</li> </ul>
<b>ROAD DECOMMISSIONING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ The results of effectiveness monitoring regarding the use of brush blankets is planned for FY04.</li> </ul>