

HERITAGE PROGRAM

GOAL

Manage and interpret heritage resources in accordance with Federal laws and Forest Service direction. Ensure that Indian tribal rights, as retained in treaties and other agreements with the tribes, are protected. Manage the Lolo Trail system to protect heritage resource values while enhancing public use and awareness. Nominate significant heritage sites to the National Register of Historic Places.

STRATEGY

Examine and conduct inventories on all proposed project areas, document findings and provide direction for project implementation to ensure compliance with State and Federal regulations. Improve relations and develop working partnerships with the Nez Perce Tribe to facilitate communication, consultation and cooperation. Identify and enhance resource values on the Lolo Trail system. Work with the public to improve values and increase awareness of heritage resources. Continue to assess heritage sites for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

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

Frequency of Measurement: Annual
Reporting Period: Annual

MONITORING ACTION

Compare project effects to environmental analysis documents and project cultural resource reports to determine if projects have caused adverse effects on cultural resources. If this determination is made, necessary mitigation will be prescribed.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS / FINDINGS

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.

The National Historic Preservation Act directs federal agencies to consider the effects of their planned activities on heritage resources. In compliance with that law, the Forest surveys proposed projects such as timber sales, recreation facilities development and others to identify heritage resources and develop plans to protect significant sites during project implementation.

Table 3 shows the number of projects surveyed and the number of sites identified during the course of project planning in FY03. Results of these surveys are then coordinated through a consultation process with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

Table 1. Heritage Resource Surveys

Year	Projects Tested*	Projects Surveyed	Acres Surveyed (Cleared)	Number Of Sites Identified
1999	2	16	1,742	56
2000	2	49	1,232	14
2001	60	33	7,371	31
2002	11	55	4,527	36
2003	3	16	964	4

*Archaeological test excavations are conducted in areas within or near site locations, or on landforms that have a high probability of containing evidence of human activity. Tests indicate the absence, presence and/or amount of subsurface cultural material in project areas and help Forest officials decide where ground-disturbing developments may or may not take place.

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. In January of 2002, the Forest Supervisor, Zone Archaeologist, Law Enforcement Officer and the Bicentennial Coordinator visited Washington D.C to conduct briefings on the preservation of significant heritage resources during the upcoming Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. Clearwater personnel briefed the Chief and his staff, Undersecretary of Agriculture Mark Rey and the House and Senate Bicameral Committee on the importance of these resources and efforts to preserve them during the upcoming event. 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

Frequency of Measurement: Annual
Reporting Period: Annual

MONITORING ACTION

The Forest Lands staff will prepare a report specifying the number of acres acquired, traded or sold. The report will contain the purpose of the land exchanges and how they contribute to the satisfaction of the Forest Plan objectives.

FINDINGS

During FY03, the Forest completed the purchase of 16 acres of trail easements from Plum Creek Timberlands. This is the second phase 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, will be completed in 2004. If money is appropriated, Phase 4 will be completed in FY 2005.

One Small Tract Act case was completed in 2003. The Forest sold 1.06 acres to a private party eliminating an encroachment on National Forest System land.

The **PITS EXCHANGE/BOISE FRONT EXCHANGE** involves 4,124 acres of Federal land and 2,827 acres of non-Federal lands. The Pits Exchange is being incorporated with the Boise Front Land Exchange. Participants include the Clearwater National Forest, Idaho Panhandle National Forest, Idaho Department of Lands and the BLM. All of the lands in both exchanges have been identified, fieldwork is completed and the appraisal is being prepared at this time. Draft legislation should be finalized by March 2004.

The **BROWNS MEADOW LAND EXCHANGE** involved Federal land on the Palouse Ranger District. Isolated Federal lands on the Palouse Ranger District were exchanged to the Idaho Department of Fish & Game for some State lands on the south Fork Salmon River. Subsequently, the Fish and Game sold their interest in these former Federal parcels to the University of Idaho, as they are located within the University of Idaho Experimental Forest. The deeds were exchanged in October 2003. This case is now completed.

The overall objective of these exchanges is to consolidate Federal ownership for more efficient and cost-effective land management. These exchanges were consistent with the management area objectives identified in the Forest Plan and the land adjustment criteria also within the Forest Plan.

Completion of these exchanges satisfied several objectives identified in the Forest Plan. Costs for surveying and posting boundary lines; acquiring access easements and constructing access to manage national forest land; acquiring/granting other use permits; and trespass will be reduced. Implementation of these exchanges contributed considerably to the management objectives and administrative efficiency of the Forest.

Over the past ten-year period, the Forest has been involved in seven land exchange cases. During that time, 34,182.87 acres have been acquired while 23,551 acres have been exchanged. Completion of these exchanges has saved the government in excess of \$1,000,000 through savings in administrative costs such as landline location, rights-of-acquisition, and trespass cases.

MINERALS

GOAL

Encourage and facilitate the orderly exploration, development and production of the energy and mineral resources on the Clearwater National Forest. Ensure that this exploration, development and production are conducted in an environmentally sound manner.



STRATEGY

Process all notices of intent, operating plans, exploration permits and lease applications in a timely manner. Monitor to ensure compliance with State and Federal regulations. Develop adequate reclamation plans to return disturbed land to other productive uses, and monitor to ensure that reclamation is performed to specified standards. Maintain close coordination with local mining groups as well as applicable State and Federal agencies.

Item No. 15 - Minerals Prospecting and Development

Frequency of Measurement: Annual
Reporting Period: Five Years

MONITORING ACTION

The Forest geologist will prepare a report detailing the status of the minerals program. The report will be based on a review of all projects and mining activities that may have an effect on minerals management. The number of case files, status of case files, estimated quantity and value of mineral production will be evaluated.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS / FINDINGS

OPERATIONS

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.

In FY96, the Washington Office issued new definitions for accomplishment indicators. Due to the difference in definitions of accomplishment, the 265 average annual number of cases predicted in the Forest Plan should not be compared to the 102 total operations processed and administered during FY03.

LOCATABLE MINERALS

The only significant locatable mineral mined from the Forest is gold. Miners are not required to report their production to the Forest Service. However, the Forest minerals geologist has estimated that approximately 30 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.

MONITORING

All active earth-disturbing minerals activities and suction dredge mining were monitored for compliance with operating plans, Forest Plan standards, and State and Federal regulations. No impacts on mining activities from other resources were identified.

Item No. 36 - Minerals Resource Availability

Frequency of Measurement: Annual

Reporting Period: Five Years

MONITORING ACTION

The Forest geologist will prepare a report on the probable effect of renewable resource prescriptions and management direction on mineral resources and activities, including exploration and development. Denial of proposed mineral activities and changes in land status affecting mineral availability will be documented. Examples include designation as wilderness or recommended wilderness, legislation such as the Threatened and Endangered Species Act, executive orders and special resource stipulations or management direction. Changes in land status or restrictions on minerals availability; exploration and development will be documented.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/FINDINGS

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.



